

# PC Update

Dec 96 - Jan 97

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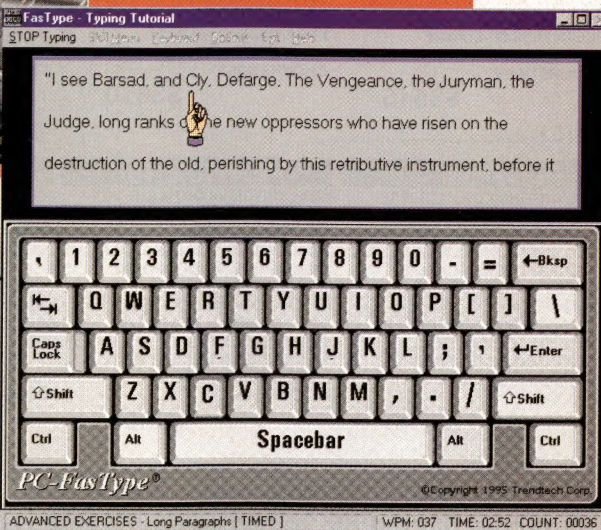


## FEATURES

The Internet Ferret's Fancies  
Computers are stupid!  
Prince Edward Island

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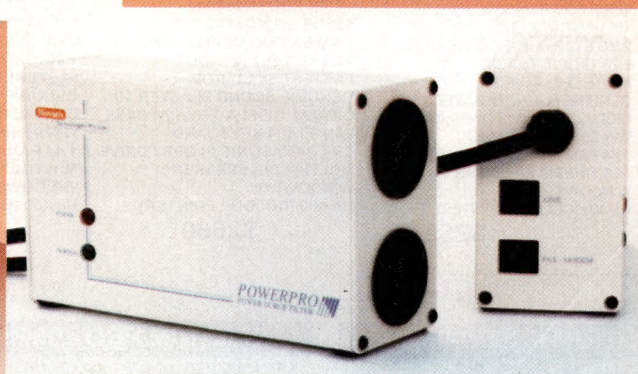
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## REVIEWS

Radix:

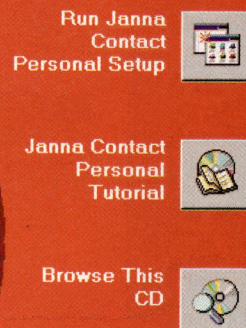
Beyond the Void  
FastType 5  
Hardlock  
security devices  
NeoDraw 2.1  
Lightning  
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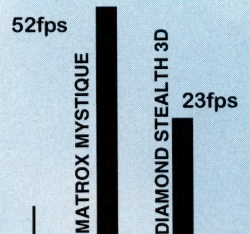
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Bookings 8 January  
Copy delivery 10 January

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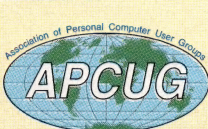
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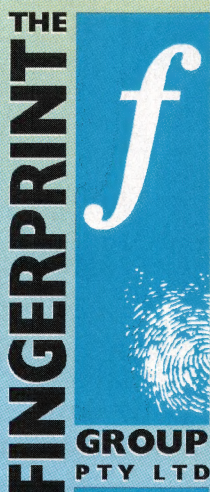
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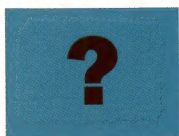
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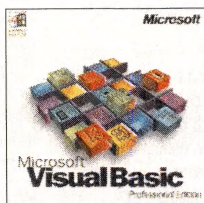
- 14 Peter's PC Update Puzzle**  
Another set of brain-teasers from Peter Smith. Solve these posers and be in the running to win a Corel CD-ROM.

- 18 V-Buster 8 Upgrade**  
Bob Burt brings us an update.



- 20 A little bit of cyberspace to call home**  
Want your own home page? Carol Daniels finds free space.

- 12 Seeing the Basics: Debugging using Step To Cursor**  
More of Tony Stevenson's advice.

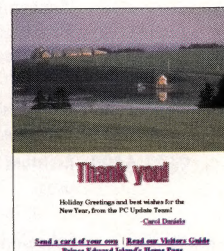


- 17 Computers are stupid!**  
Peter Smith asks for examples like these.

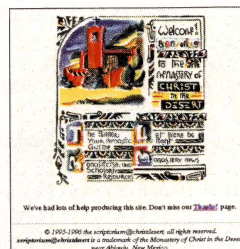
- 51 The unfriendly user**  
Grahame Menzies just wants to use his PC.



- 54 Prince Edward Island**  
Barbara Maple been surfin' Canada.



- 56 The Internet Ferret's Fancies**  
The Internet Ferret trawls the Web for an eclectic collection of URLs.



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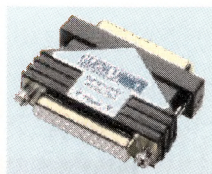
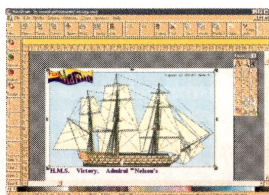
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## Reviews

- 8 NeoDraw 2.1**  
Bernadette Houghton assesses a shareware drawing program.

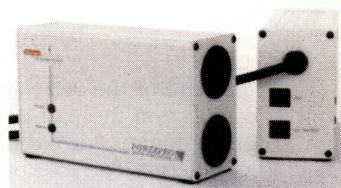


- 52 Hardlock security devices**  
Bob Burt reviews a sophisticated hardware-based copy-protection system.

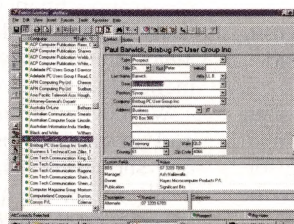
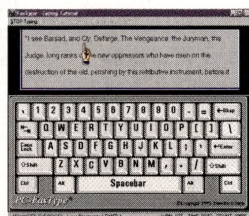


- 10 Radix: Beyond the Void**  
More shareware. According to Bernadette Houghton, this game is faaaaast!

- 58 Lightning never strikes?**  
But, when it does, Stan Johnstone knows how to protect his PC.



- 50 FastType 5**  
Bernadette Houghton shows us how to improve our typing skills.



- 59 Janna Contact Personal**  
Ash Nallawalla reviews a Windows-based personal contact manager.

## Club News and Departments

### Mailer

- |   |  |   |
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| <b>3</b> The fine print                                   | <b>30</b> Annual General Meeting<br>Peter Smith, Returning Officer | <b>45</b> Discounts for members                                   |
| <b>6</b> Editorial<br>Carol Daniels                       | <b>34</b> Shareware/Freeware library update<br>Glenn Webster       | <b>41</b> 1996 PC Update Readers' Choice Awards<br>Stan Johnstone |
| <b>16</b> President's Annual Report<br>Charles Wright     | <b>39</b> Members' free ads  | <b>62</b> PC Update advertisers index                             |
| <b>22</b> The inaugural Ron Wilby Awards<br>Carol Daniels | <b>40</b> Special interest group meetings                          | <b>62</b> Monthly meeting details                                 |
| <b>26</b> Training courses                                |  | <b>62</b> Acknowledgments   |

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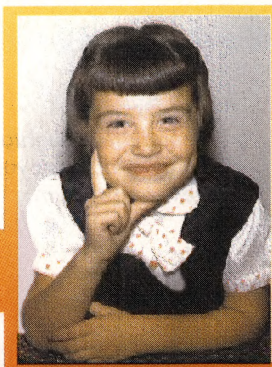
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## WORKING WRITER'S WORDS

Carol Daniels



**A**t the end of the year, it's natural to reflect on the past and plan for the future. For me, 1996 has been hectic. The role of editing *PC Update* has been harder and more rewarding than I imagined it would be when I agreed to give it a go.

Together, Ash, Peter and I are a strong, dynamic team. Our skills, interests and experience mesh well and I think it shows in the product. Judging from your feedback, you do too. Of course we're never satisfied. We're always looking for ways to improve *PC Update*. Some of the changes we've made are easy to spot, others are subtle—but equally important.

We've enjoyed working together and with our contributors. It's been especially gratifying to see a mix of new and old names in the bylines this year.

We have bigger and better plans for the future. The other day we were talking about how we could...well, you'll have to wait for 1997 to see what we have planned. Regular readers will know I never pass up an opportunity to point out your role in our success. Your interests—and the submissions they inspire—are essential to the lively, informative, and entertaining publication we strive to produce.

Melb PC is the result of hard work by dedicated visionaries. The dreamt-of Internet service happened. *PC Update* became an award-winning magazine. SIGs were nurtured, the BBS built, workshops conducted and cries for help answered.

But for too long the debate about our future has been dominated by "this or that" schisms. The "club vs business" argument has been vocal, emotive and polarising.

Why confine ourselves to either narrow view? Why don't we look to hybrid groups, for example service and philanthropic organisations, for models? They successfully blend business discipline in financial dealings and development plans, with the esprit de corps that motivates volunteers to support the group and its activities.

Successful, enduring groups offer a range of valued services and inspire long-term loyalty. They can do this because their leaders understand that services require secure funding. Secure funding requires good management.

Although not every activity will return a profit, all activities must benefit the group, for example by building membership, developing group loyalty, increasing general awareness of the organisation and its goals, or adding to the group's financial security.

The leaders and followers that built Melb PC are rightly proud of their achievements, but this is no time to be smug.

We have a strong record of success and an enviable list of services, but no one should foolishly think that we know it all, or that we are big enough and smart enough to go it alone.

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to recognise that the Internet service, *PC Update*, BBS, SIGs, training courses, Dial Help Lines and our sound financial position, are assets.

Less obvious, but equally important assets, include our relationships with vendors' representatives and our counterparts in user groups around the world. We neglect these assets at our peril.

One indispensable network is APCUG (the Association of PC User Groups.). In its October newsletter, *Reports*, President Larry Shaw wrote, "Just as a User Group exists for the purpose of helping users help other users, APCUG exists for the purpose of helping User Group Officers help other User Group Officers. If we look at it in those terms, APCUG is a User Group for User Groups."

APCUG is the only such resource, and while the benefits from our participation flow both ways, our investment in time, effort and dollars, is repaid many times over. These relationships and the benefits that flow from them, are too valuable to squander.

When you get this magazine, I'll be in the USA, as one of your representatives at APCUG's fall conference.

As networking and relationship-building events, APCUG conferences are invaluable. Electronic communication has broken down many barriers, but it's no substitute for direct, personal interaction.

There's nothing like the camaraderie that develops when enthusiastic, committed people meet face-to-face. Sharing interests and concerns in a highly focussed environment brings out the best in people and it fosters the sort of courage

and excitement that frees people from their limitations and enables them to achieve seemingly impossible tasks.

At this year's conference the relevance and viability of user groups will be under the microscope. It's not melodramatic to say that our futures are at stake. The gravity of the situation is reflected in the roundtable themes, which this year include:

- Taking stock of your user group
- Planning for your user group's future
- Education bridging the gap
- Liability issues for user group web sites

This is a critical time in the history of PC user groups. The challenges facing us are too big, too many and too varied for any group—no matter its size—to conquer alone. If we've learnt anything in 1996, it's that size doesn't immunise against extinction.

To identify and develop the innovative solutions that will enable user groups to flourish today **and** tomorrow, requires dreamers and doers, technical gurus and organisational strategists, people who know (perhaps even wrote) the early history of user groups, visionaries, and starry-eyed newbies.

That's the sort of idea-charged mix of knowledge, experience and talent I expect in an environment from which great things come.

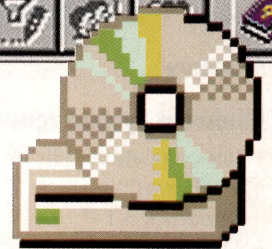
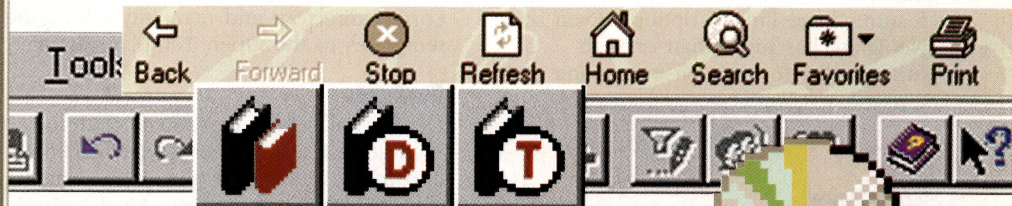
That's just a glimpse of the APCUG events and only half of what we'll be trying to accomplish. The conference is scheduled to coincide with COMDEX, for which we have a long list of objectives.

Because of our size, success, and attendance at APCUG/COMDEX in previous years, Melb PC is a recognised force in the user group community. But we don't own that position. It would be easy to slip into obscurity. Simply because for most vendors, Australia is still far away and the bulk of their consumers are right there, under their noses, clamouring for their attention. That, and the volatility at senior levels in the computer industry make the work of establishing and maintaining relationships with vendors an ongoing job.

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# NeoDraw 2.1

## SOFTWARE REVIEW

Bernadette Houghton

**N**eoDraw is a low-priced Windows drawing program with some features generally only found in more expensive packages. It is not easy nor is it intuitive to use and most of the available features have limited options. Even so, NeoDraw has more than enough functionality to meet basic drawing needs.

### Info Box

#### NeoDraw

##### Minimum system requirements

- IBM-compatible 386 processor
- 4 MB RAM
- Windows 3.1
- Mouse
- CD-ROM
- 15 MB free hard disk space

##### Availability and cost

Available at major software stockists, including Myer and Harvey Norman.

Distributed by Manacomm

Ph: (03) 9569 6377

Fax: (03) 9569 9641

For nearest reseller phone 0055 12685

RRP: Shareware, registered version \$49.95

(NeoDraw is disk **Melb 8425** in the Melb PC shareware library.)

NeoDraw comes with a collection of bitmap and editable vector clipart, as well as 10 templates. Unfortunately, the installation program did not install these correctly and they were inaccessible until I had copied the clipart over to the correct directory and manually added the templates to the Open Template dialog.

#### Features

NeoDraw's default desktop is cluttered with large icons, trigger-happy tooltips and messy rulers, but you can streamline much of it to suit yourself. Most features are close to hand; tools are quickly accessed from a floating Tools Box or context-sensitive popup menu. Symbols and objects which you use frequently can be placed a click away in the Stamp Pad on the Tools Box. NeoDraw supports TXT, HPGL, PCX, BMP, TGA and WMF file formats for import and WMF, HPGL, BMP and PostScript for export. Multiple drawings can be opened at once and external programs launched directly from NeoDraw.

As with most drawing programs, you draw shapes by clicking on a tool and dragging it out on the page. Tools remain active until you select another, a feature I found quite irritating. Apart from standard text, circle, arc, rectangle, rounded rectangle and line shapes, NeoDraw offers spline, quadratic and Bezier curves as well as stars, rays and polygons. Dimensions can be placed on

most drawn objects, although the effect is unusual, to say the least, with anything other than straight edges. Dimensions are dynamic, updating as an object is resized.

Special effects include lens distortion, air brushing, warping, flipping, rotation, gradient fills and placement of objects along a path. Features not often found in other low-cost

**innovative yet  
fairly basic  
shareware  
drawing  
program**

drawing programs are masking (using bitmaps as object fills) and drawing modes (colouring overlapping objects according to mode). NeoDraw supports RGB, HSL and CMYK colour models as well as custom colour palettes and four-colour separations.

There are two kinds of text. NeoDraw Text uses special fonts (supplied with NeoDraw) and can be converted into objects and treated individually; a simple but useful feature here is retention of the original text. Paragraph text uses standard Windows fonts and is suitable for large blocks of text; in this case, NeoDraw opens a separate text editing window.

There are up to nine undo levels, although once you change layers you can no longer undo anything on a previous layer. Objects can be grouped, combined and aligned, with up to 16,000 drawing layers possible. Overlapping objects can be stacked in any order, and objects can be snapped to either grids or Guidelines. Guidelines are horizontal or vertical lines you can position anywhere to assist with object position; they can even be created automatically for each control point of a selected object. Another welcome feature enables formatting attributes to be copied from one object to another. Of course, the more complex a drawing, the longer it takes for the screen to redraw, but a rapid display mode speeds things up.

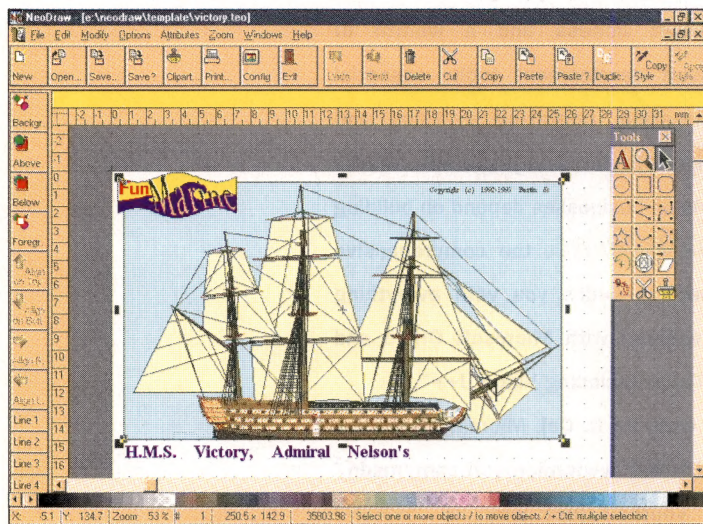


Figure 1. Main NeoDraw screen.





## Assessment

NeoDraw is a reasonably priced drawing program with some surprisingly advanced features, even though most features have only limited options. To give some examples, paragraph text formatting is very rudimentary, only inches or millimetres can be chosen as units of measurement, and only objects that have the same number of control points can be blended.

Drawn objects are sometimes quite difficult to select and menus are confusing until you get used to them. Confirmation dialog boxes can't be turned off, and many special effects cannot be previewed. Some objects, such as Bezier curves, are cumbersome to

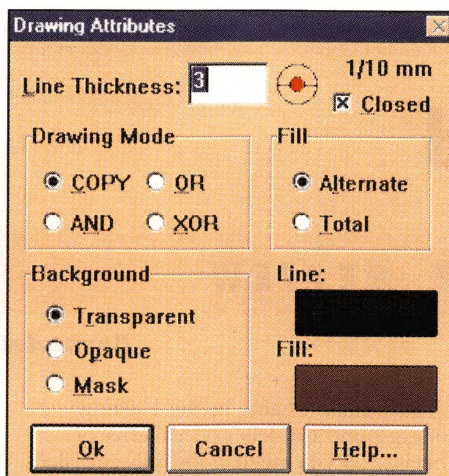


Figure 2. Drawing attributes dialog.

edit, and placing text along a path yields unsatisfactory results with text unevenly spaced.

In a more positive vein, dialog boxes are simple and uncluttered, and there are plenty of features—some quite advanced—with most of them only a click or two away.

NeoDraw would not suit someone with complex drawing requirements, but it may be worth a try if you need an innovative



Figure 3. Sample NeoDraw effects—blends, distorted text, gradient fills, masks and drawing modes (the original colours of the five circles on the bottom are red, blue, red, red and red)

yet fairly basic drawing program. Best of all, it is uncrippled shareware, so you need only pay for it if you decide to use it beyond its 30-day evaluation period. ■

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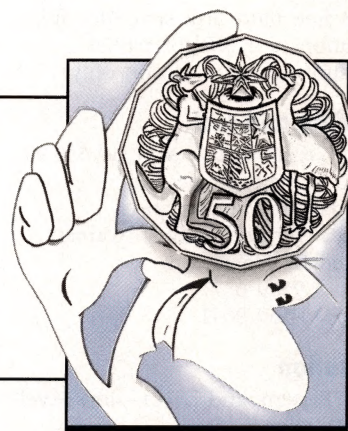
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▲ GRUTZ 167/5



# Radix: Beyond the Void

## GAME REVIEW

Bernadette Houghton



**R**adix: Beyond the Void is a 3D shooting game. The goal is to reclaim the asteroid Theta-2 from aliens and then pursue the aliens back to their home territory. Ensconced at the controls of the interdimensional starfighter, Radix, you have a first-person cockpit view of the action.

### Info Box

#### Radix: Beyond the Void

#### Minimum system requirements

- IBM-compatible 386/33 processor (486/66 recommended)
- 4 MB RAM
- VGA graphics
- 21 MB free hard disk space for full installation or 1 MB for partial installation (CD-ROM version only)

#### Availability and cost

Shareware; registered version RRP \$39.95  
Available at major game and educational software stockists, including Myer and Harvey Norman.  
Distributed by Manacomm  
Ph: (03) 9569 6377  
Fax: (03) 9569 9641

#### Classification

General (8 years and over)—low level animated violence

The pursuit begins in the twisting underground tunnels and caverns of Theta-2, so you need good piloting skills to avoid hitting obstacles. Of course, there are all sorts of dangers, including mines, aliens and deadly enemy weapons. Massive metal monstrosities called Exo-Droids are probably the toughest enemy you'll encounter, but don't discount the ability of teleporters, gravity wells, moving cannons and missiles to make your mission more difficult. There are lots of doors, some very well hidden, and holographic walls which you can fly through. To aid you in your mission, there is a veritable arsenal of weapons and power-ups you can collect along the way.

Radix supports multiplayer modes; modem and serial connections support two players, while up to four players can play over a network. Multiplayer games can be either cooperative, where players work together to destroy the enemy, or competitive, where players destroy their opponents. There is also a more challenging "Capture the Flag" mode, where players must destroy **all** other opponents to complete a level.

It takes some time to become a proficient pilot if you're new to the 3D mode of play. However, Radix is quite an exciting game, especially at the harder levels where the pace is faaaaaast and frenetic.

**at the harder**

**levels the pace**

**is faaaaaast**

**and frenetic**



Figure 1. View from the cockpit of the starfighter, Radix.

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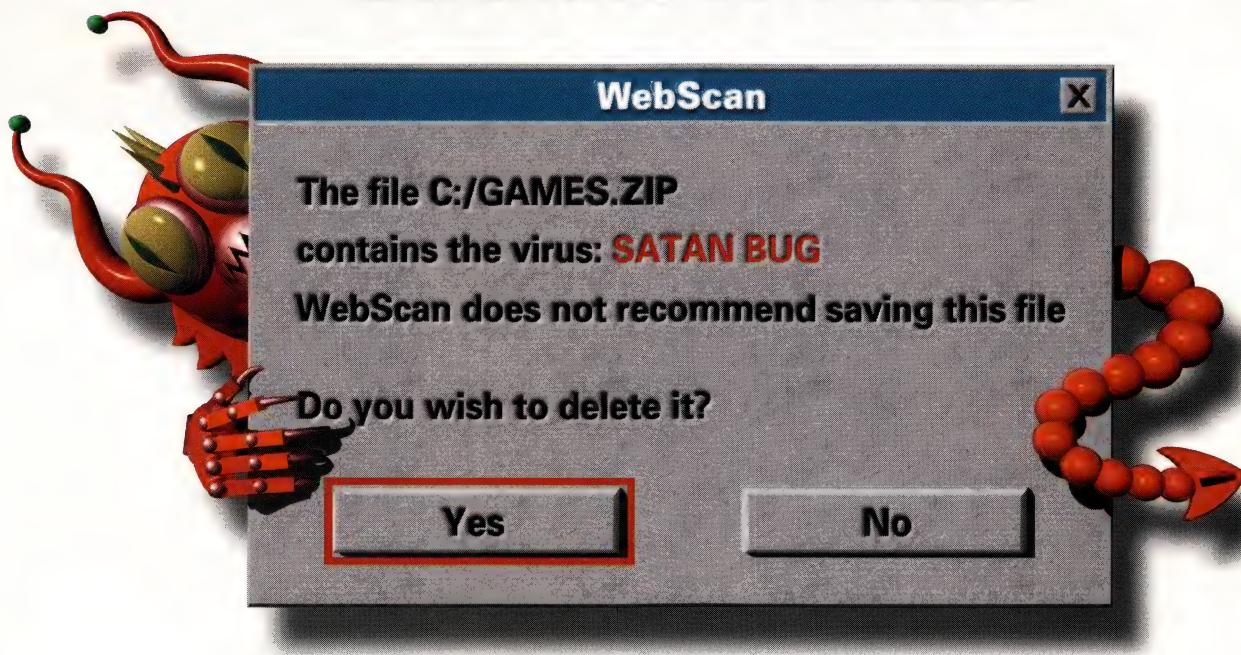
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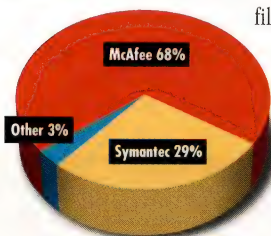
And if you think you're already protected, think again. Regular anti-virus software doesn't protect you from Internet-based viruses.

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WebScan works by creating a temporary quarantine for all downloaded files while it scans for viruses. If the file is found to be infected, the user is alerted and given the option to immediately delete the file.

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WebScan is fully compatible with all the leading Web browsers, and it protects without degrading your PC's performance.



*McAfee is the worldwide leader in standalone DOS and Windows anti-virus software shipments.*



### Includes free Web browser, and e-mail.

WebScan includes a Web browser and full-featured e-mail module complete with encrypted messaging, a built-in spell checker and multiple address books. That's everything you need to wander the Web, download files, exchange e-mail and protect yourself against virtually all viruses on the Internet.

### WebScan + VirusScan for total protection.

While WebScan keeps Internet viruses out, VirusScan detects and removes viruses from all systems, including local and network drives, floppies, CD-ROMs and boot sectors. McAfee's unique Code Matrix Scanning™ and

Code Trace Scanning™ Technology work on all types of viruses. Whether they're boot, file, multi-partite, stealth, encrypted or polymorphic.

Both WebScan and VirusScan support Windows 95, and detection and removal files are updated each month for maximum protection. Which helps explain why McAfee is #1 in virus detection software.

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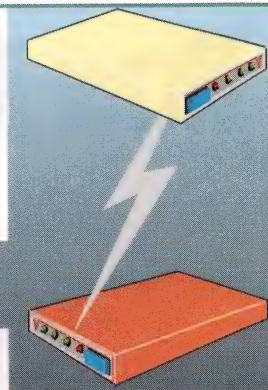
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# The Maestro Executive E336 fax modem with voice support

## TEST DRIVE

Keith Beresford



**W**ell what can I say? I waited a whole day for the modem to arrive. When it did, I rushed home (early) from work to test it out. And test it out I did. But hang on. What are these manuals? Obviously only for trouble-shooting. So I ignored them, preferring the open it up, plug it in and switch it on approach.

First I should explain that I already had a modem installed. So it was out with the old and in with the new. What do you know? It worked out of the box!

I didn't have to change any Windows 95 settings. Within minutes I was surfing the Net. A short time later I had logged on to the Melb PC BBS and was downloading several large files.

The modem comes with the Windows-based program *QuickLink Message Center* on one 3.5-inch disk. It is nothing like the old dos QuickLink. The install program did not check my available drive space and warn me that had insufficient space on the selected drive to install the program. Instead the installation failed. So I had to start over, this time changing the default "C" to "G" (where I had ample room). After a few minutes the whirr of the disk drive stopped and the message centre was installed (Figure 1). All that I had to do was agree to a few default values, and the message centre was up and running.



Figures 1 (above) and 2 (below).

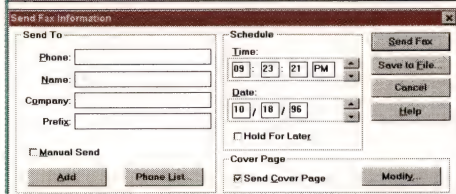
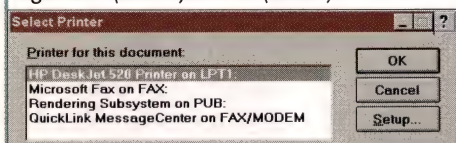


Figure 3.

### Fax first

I used my favourite Windows-based word processor, created a document and "printed it." But instead of sending it to the printer I opened printer setup and selected the fax modem as default (Figure 2). I was asked to supply the phone number (Figure 3) and a few more default values. Then away it went. You can load often-called fax numbers in to the program's phone book. To take advantage of off-peak long-distance rates, you can select the time the fax should be sent. If you want you can edit the cover page, or not use it at all.

### Voice next

With the call manager up and running (Figure 4) I rang my PC. I was greeted by a male voice advising me there was no one available to take my call and asking me to leave a message.

I left myself an appropriate message and hung up. Back at the PC a click on the call manager brought up the mail box. It showed me I had one message. One interesting feature is that the default screen saver changes to let you know a call is in progress and how many calls are in your mail box. If the call is a fax, the fax software is loaded automatically and the fax is saved for later retrieval.

You have many controls over the answering system including,

- Changing the greeting
  - Ringing in from a remote location to retrieve or delete messages
  - Paging you when calls are received
- You can also set it up as a fax on demand system, so callers receive your faxes when they call in to your line.



Figures 4 (above) and 5 (right).

### Built-in BBS software

This software was just a simple mouse click away on the QuickLink Message Center (Figure 5). It takes a minute or two to set it up for your favourite BBS..

### Conclusion

I found the this modem and software to be easy to install and operate, the QuickLink Message Center manual was simple and easy to understand. The user guide—with a full list and explanations of the AT command set—could be a bit daunting for a modem newbie. By the same token, it would be an indispensable tool when confronted with configuration problems.

### Acknowledgment

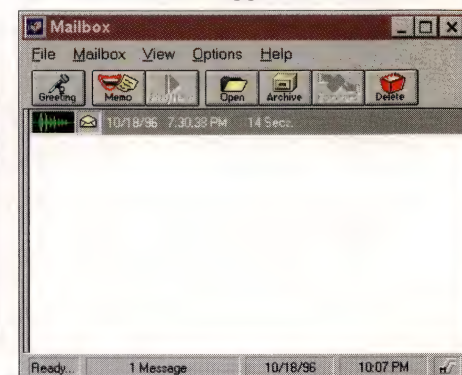
Thanks to Maestro for this evaluation modem. It's a shame I had to give it back. It's going to be hard to go back to my old clunker. But, hang on. Don't we have a modem deal on this month? Yes we do. Check out page 22 for the order form for a joint offer from Maestro and Melb PC for members of Melb PC and other Australian user groups.

The Maestro Executive E336 fax modem (external) with voice support

- V.34 and speeds to 33,600 bps
- Error correction and data compression including MNP 2-5 and V42/V.42 bis, V17 Fax (14,400 bps)

Special price for members of Melb PC, and other Australian user groups, \$310.00 (includes all cables, connectors and Windows-based software).

Also available, the Jet Stream as above, but without voice support, for \$225. □







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#### Friendly to the Environment

The convenience of the Executive fax/modem means that you need only make paper copy when **you want it**. This eliminates waste and helps save our forests.

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A comprehensive array of status indicators means you won't be left wondering what is going on.

#### Powerful Software

Maestro includes FaxWorks and ComIt (for Windows) or Mac Com Centre (for Macintosh) for great functionality and ease of use.

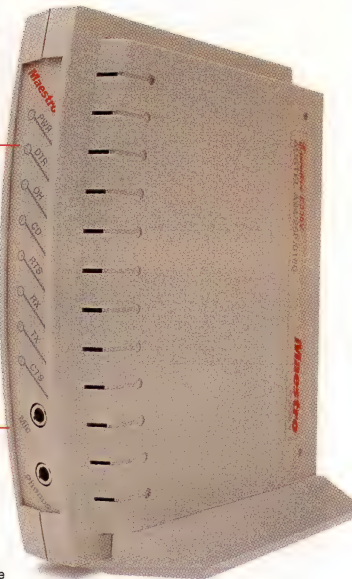
#### Versatility

Maestro design ingenuity means that the Executive leads the market with the most convenient and versatile case available. Best of all, it is both manufactured and designed in Australia.

#### Compatibility

The technology used in Executive modems gives the greatest possible compatibility with other brands.

Class 1 & 2 Fax compatibility means the Executive works with virtually all commercial fax software.



#### Reliability

New! Five year warranty means no unexpected maintenance costs\*.

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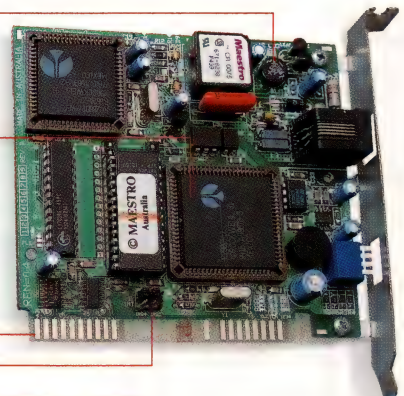
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# Peter's PC Update Puzzle

WIN A COREL CD-ROM

Peter Smith



**T**hese puzzles are designed to be solved without using a computer—if a bird-brain can write them, another bird-brain can solve them!

Solve the puzzles (you may use plain paper or a photocopy—you do not need to mutilate your *PC Update*) and send your entry to

Peter's PC Update Puzzle  
December  
PO Box 14  
Ringwood VIC 3134

to arrive by Friday 31 January.

We'll publish the solutions and the winner in the March *PC Update*. November's solutions and winner will be in the February magazine.

Entries by snail-mail on;y, please and only to the address above.

## Prize

This month's prize is a copy of the Corel CD HOME *Wild Board Games*, which Bernadette Houghton reviewed in the April 1996 issue of *PC Update*.

## Cross Numbers

Each answer is a number, none of which start with zero. The digits of 12 Across add up to 12.

### Across

2. Square root of 14 across.
3. Twice 19 down.
5. Twice 24 across.
7. Multiple of 22 across.
8. Multiple of 9.

10. Half 1 down.
12. Multiple of 6.
14. Divisible by 8.
17. Digits add up to 8.
20. Digits add up to 20.
22. Multiple of 13.
23. Four times a square number.
24. Digits add up to 6.

### Down

1. Multiple of 14.
2. Square less than 200.
3. Digits add up to 13.
4. Multiple of 101.
6. Twice 21 down.
9. 23 across minus 2 across.
11. Multiple of 7, greater than 50.
13. Multiple of 5.
15. Half 20 across.
16. Square number.
18. Same digits as 4 across, in a different order.
19. Prime number less than 20.
21. Prime number greater than 16 and less than 30.

## October's Results

Ian le Maistre won October's CD-ROM.

## Solutions

- North** Sally, Engineer  
**East** Steve, Salesperson  
**South** Samuel, Nurse  
**West** Sarah, Programmer

Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned.  
Success has many fathers but failure is an orphan.

## Answer Grid

1		2			3	4
5	6			7		
	8		9		10	
11			12	13		
14	15	16		17	18	19
	20		21		22	
23			24			



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# Easy network printing management from your desk.



HP LaserJet 5SiMX

The new **HP LaserJet 5SiMX printer** means the end of running around the office to help users with their printing problems because it features the latest version of HP's JetAdmin printer management software. Your life will be made easier with simple network printer installation, sophisticated pre-emptive diagnostics and remote trouble-shooting tools. And at the same time the printer users will be able to manage their jobs more easily with simple point-and-click printing, real-time printer status and job cancellation at any time. There's also optional enhanced paper handling with input capacity of 3100 sheets. Printing is possible on media up to A3, with a breakthrough print speed of up to 24 pages per minute for unrivalled productivity.

*Be sure it's easy.* Be sure it's HP.

For more information see your nearest HP dealer or phone 13 13 47. Or, to receive a fact sheet, telephone our HP FIRST fax service, on (03) 9272 2627 and request ID number 90204.

JWT HPC 580



# President's Annual Report

## CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Charles Wright



**B**y any measures of performance, the last financial year was a major success for the group. If you read the treasurer's report, published in October's *PC Update*, you can see a healthy bottom line, and solid increases in our assets.

By the end of the financial year, membership had reached considerably higher levels than at the corresponding period of 1994-95. We have become the world's largest PC user group. We are delivering services of an order that most organisations of our type cannot match.

Our Internet service now has the sort of modern ratio and bandwidth that rivals that of many commercial operations, at a price that throughout the Internet service industry is regarded as outrageously low. We've managed to track down the source of annoying drop-outs and other technical faults, and fix them—in fact in the past few months we've essentially rebuilt the entire system—and we have professional support to maintain and continue to improve our service.

Our magazine is attracting new writers, and setting new standards for information content and sheer readability. We've replaced our advertising representatives, and their enthusiasm has turned around a disturbing decline in revenue from that source.

We instituted the Ron Wilby Awards to perpetuate the memory of a constant

contributor who'd kept readers entertained and informed for many years, typifying the spirit that has made *PC Update* such a core asset for this club. Those awards and the seminars we introduced to help new writers take their first steps towards publication—and of course, the talent and energy of our new editor, Carol Daniels—have revitalised the magazine's content.

We've totally re-equipped and renovated our training area and sig room, utilising wasted space so that both are now significantly larger, and the training room can compete with the standard of accommodation offered by other training organisations.

We've employed a new chief executive officer, and we are beginning to work our way through all our administrative processes, tightening them up and improving our performance.

We've been invited to address the international organisation of computer user groups, APCUG, on the secrets of our success.

In my opinion the fundamental elements are deceptively simple. Discover the services that members want, and provide them at the cheapest possible cost. Keep membership fees as low as possible. Adopt a financial model that applies the bulk of your income to extending member services, and keep your administrative costs down. When we compare our

figures with those of other groups in these key areas, we see marked differences. Over the past few years, we got it right.

We could pat ourselves on the back, and convince ourselves that we'd won a tremendous victory.

But while we do need to celebrate our success, we also need to recognise that there is absolutely no cause for complacency. I have not the slightest doubt that in this coming calendar year, we will face the most serious challenges in our history, to our continued existence.

I have already written about the demise of Boston Computer Society and other user groups around the world. We know that everywhere, the very concept of user groups is increasingly being considered outdated and unnecessary. These pundits assure us that users can find in the open market, the sort of services and information that we provide. I regard the suggestion as absurd.

Those of us who have benefited over the years from the services this club offers realise that nothing approaches us in terms of variety and value.

But much remains to be done. Our steady growth in membership has dried up, and with it, our income. Although we haven't lacked in ideas to extend and improve our services, we have been slow to implement them. While I don't intend the following to obscure our achievements, which have been many and significant, I offer them as an indication of some of the challenges that must be addressed by the incoming committee.

During the year we completed a membership survey which is a vital part of our effort to revitalise advertising, and hence subsidise, *PC Update*. But we have yet to complete the necessary interpretation of those results.

We have done relatively little to improve our promotional material, or to identify the places—computer shops for instance—where having material advertising our services would attract new members.

Training has so far defied our efforts to make it more appealing to members, to adequately cover the genuine interests of members, and to contribute adequately to the club's income. Having improved the physical environment and equipment, we must now launch a major initiative in

*The staff and committee of  
Melb PC and PC Update  
wish all our volunteers,  
members and readers  
the Seasons Greetings  
and a safe and happy 1997*



that area, based on relevance, much higher standards, and value for money.

While our new policy on SIGs has significantly improved communications with what is, for many members, a highly rewarding activity, we have not, in my opinion, gone anywhere near tapping the latent demand for sharing information and experience in some of the most popular areas of computing.

And despite the fact that we are an Internet service provider, with large numbers of members who are both proficient in, and fascinated by this activity, we have so far completely missed the opportunity to tap what is certainly the fastest-growing area of interest in the community. If we don't do so this year, we are virtually certain to find a Melbourne Internet Users' Group or something very like it, recruiting our prospective members.

We are also yet to adopt a coherent policy on our volunteers, to recruit them, to train them, to keep them adequately informed and interested.

The interfacing of professional employees with volunteers caused some significant difficulties, and there may yet be others. The role of the chief executive officer has still to be satisfactorily resolved.

Last year we held our first Saturday seminar. We intended this year to hold a few more, but managed only to squeeze in one, on the Internet. It was a highly successful event, but it demonstrates how much more we might achieve with our management of meetings. Our attempts to establish a successful meetings subcommittee have not yet succeeded, nor has our attempt to establish a marketing subcommittee.

By the end of this year, with the expiry of our lease at Albert Road, we must be prepared to find new premises. Planning that move, and collecting the information that must be presented to members to allow them to decide whether we should buy or rent a building should be much more advanced than it is.

The move by all the Internet backbone carriers, including our supplier, Connect.com, to impose volume-based charging confronts us with the risk of much higher bandwidth charges, and, as I have already pointed out to the committee, the responsibility to very closely monitor the financial implications. It also means that our move to the Wildcat BBS system, which offers the option of delivery of some Internet services via that system, could become even more critical. Our ability to offer Internet access at such low fees is significantly threatened by these developments.

The principal reason, in my view, for our lack of progress in some of these areas is that we simply do not have enough committee members and other volunteers with sufficient experience,

commitment, time and energy to tackle the jobs that need to be done. I have grown very tired indeed of scanning the committee table for someone either not already overwhelmed with work, or sufficiently experienced, or with the time available to get these jobs done.

I became acutely aware of the fact that job pressure was cutting into the time of many committee members, keeping them away from meetings, and severely restricting their ability to consult, and to complete various projects.

The pace and demands of corporate life are beginning to seriously challenge one of those cherished verities: "If you want a job done, give it to a busy man."

While my repeated appeals for members to make themselves available to help the club have brought some response—my thanks to all of them—there simply haven't been enough or enough of sufficient experience. We have no shortage of people who are prepared to work as office volunteers, or represent the club at swap meets, but we are seriously impeded by a lack of skills of a different order.

The situation has been aggravated by the fact that for the past four months or so, a great deal of our attention has been focussed on fixing an Internet service that patently did not meet our standards. That meant that we did not have the resources to address, or to address adequately, other vital tasks.

We have now come to the annual elections. As I indicated early this year, I will not be a candidate for election. My professional commitments next year will not allow me to give the position the attention that it requires.

I have no intention of trying to direct the members' vote towards specific candidates, but I believe that I must make some general comments in such a critical election.

The position of president requires somebody who can forge the best possible team from the committee he's presented with, inspire it, drive it, and sort out the inevitable clashes of personality and differences of opinion that will erupt. He must be prepared at times to risk his personal popularity in the interests of the group. He must also be able to represent the club in public, while at the same time staying in touch with members in order to represent the views of the majority—not an easy thing when small interest groups are so vociferous, and electronically assisted. He must be able to move discussions along at a satisfactory pace, while not too much attenuating debate.

He will need the full support and assistance of an experienced, loyal and energetic executive, all working towards the same goal. He must expect that they will make themselves available for more

than the monthly meetings. He will need wise counsel, and lacking it, will find the burden intolerable.

It is never an easy job, but it will be particularly difficult this year, when many of the candidates seem to represent very different views.

I have been somewhat disturbed by some of the ideas that have been put to me by some candidates or their supporters. I'm not sure how many members understand that running an organisation of this size, with mostly volunteer labour, is not at all like running a small club, or even a small business.

The more distant one is from the centre of the group, the easier its management appears to be. It isn't simple.

To win votes, I believe candidates should be able to satisfy members that their focus of interest in the group is not narrowly confined. To be concerned principally about one area of our activities is to ignore the fact that the club represents many things to many people, and will survive only while it continues to serve those diverse interests.

We should be able to have confidence that the people we elect have a record for promoting the cause of reasoned discourse.

I have made it clear that in my view we don't need committee members who believe that all we require of them is to come along to the monthly committee meetings and express their opinions. We don't lack opinions. We don't lack consciences. We need people with commonsense, practical experience in professional or business activities, and above all, the ability to work hard, and work as a team. We don't need people who've got grudges to settle, and personal agendas.

Most important of all, we ought to require the candidates to provide us with a coherent plan for the future of the group. It does not seem to me that the 100-word statements in this magazine can be expected to provide even a hint of such planning, but in the *melbpc.general* Internet newsgroup, and on the BBS, the presidential candidates at least should be able to provide members with further and better particulars.

Each of you as members must try to sort out from the field, those who can best carry on the work that has made this club so successful. It is quite likely that the fate of the group might be decided by the exercising of a few hundred proxies. I strongly suggest, if you value the group, to take one night out of your schedule and attend the annual general meeting.

It has been a great privilege to have served the group over these past years. I wish all of you well. □



# V-Buster 8 Upgrade

## SOFTWARE NOTE

Bob Burt

**T**he new version of Dr Looi's virus-combating program V-Buster (reviewed in *PC Update* in October 1996) is 8.00/10280. Among the 2037 new viruses now recognised by this upgrade are the *Colors Macro* and the *Wazzu Macro*, as well as a new, previously unnamed virus which Dr Looi has named *Macro-X*. All three viruses have been causing some havoc in both Asia and Australia. V-Buster 8.00/10280 can detect and rebuild all files infected by these viruses.

With Dr Looi's permission I have uploaded a zipped copy of V-Buster 8.00/10280 to our BBS. It is available as VBUST8UG.ZIP. For V-Buster users with original copies of V-Buster 8.00, you simply copy the files to your original diskettes. Just one word of warning, though. **Do not** copy the files to V-Buster 7.00 diskettes, as the copy protection is slightly different.

For non-owners, VBUST8UG.ZIP can be used as an evaluation copy. You unzip the files onto a floppy disk and carry out the installation instructions. It is then a full working copy, except that while it will detect infected boot sectors, partition tables and files, it will not repair them. □

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# A little bit of cyberspace to call home

## HOME ON THE WAVE

Carol Daniels

**W**hether you're a new subscriber to Melb PC's Internet service or an old hand looking for new horizons, you're eventually going to think about creating your own home page.

Melb PC doesn't provide space for members' private home pages. Not to worry. There are literally hundreds of sites all over the world that provide free space. Absolutely Free! Some have restrictions on who can have free space. Most are for personal pages or not-for-profit organisations. Some are restricted to people interested in certain subjects. But there are some that specialise in free space for business Web sites, although these are often restricted to sites for small businesses. Basically, there's someplace for everyone, if you know where to look.

So, if during the summer break you find your mind wandering and your thoughts returning to that free piece of cyberspace—that webplot with super-highway access—that's out there, just waiting for you to colonise it, check out the following sites.

Jon Pennycook ([jsp1@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:jsp1@leicester.ac.uk)) maintains a large mirror site at [http://www.symmetrix.cb/Public/jsp1/mirror\\_index.html](http://www.symmetrix.cb/Public/jsp1/mirror_index.html). One of his more popular pages is the one titled "Sites where you can get free Web pages" <http://www.symmetrix.cb/Public/jsp1/freeweb/sites.html>

The last time I visited this page Jon had sixty-six different organisations and ISPs listed. Most listings include a brief description of each site's requirements, such as

- **Allfaiths Press**, where they offer free Web pages to any religious organisation (<http://www.ssp-ii.com/ssp/Allfaiths/>).
- **StudentAccess**. A site that's offering 1 MB of Web space to high school and college students around the world. (<http://www.studentaccess.com/>)
- **GeoCities**. Perhaps the best known of all free Web page sites, where you're invited to homestead on the World Wide Web. (<http://www.geocities.com/cgi-bin/main/homestead>).

The site that Maximilian Lee ([maxlee@leland.stanford.edu](mailto:maxlee@leland.stanford.edu)) maintains, "The free

**hundreds of  
sites all over  
the world  
that provide  
free space**

webpage provider review" (<http://www.leland.stanford.edu/~maxlee/FWPReview/>) takes a different approach.

Max presents his information in tabular form and he's a lot choosier about who gets listed. Max is only interested in sites that offer disk quotas of 500 KB or more. Other concerns for Max are

- FTP (including direct or indirect access to your directory)
- Telnet access (via a UNIX shell account)
- Time limits (all 11 in the table current allow your page to remain on the site indefinitely)
- HTML editor (availability of an online editor)
- Ads (do you have a choice about having the provider's ad or logo on your page)
- FAQ (Web page instructions and help for newbies)
- Webmaster (for specific problems and questions about your page)

If you don't find enough on these two sites to satisfy you, I suggest you follow Jon's parting words and try Yahoo's listing for Business and Economy: Companies: Internet Services: Web Presence Providers: Free Web Pages ([http://www.yahoo.com/Business\\_and\\_Economy/Companies/Internet\\_Services/Web\\_Presence\\_Providers/Free\\_Web\\_Pages/](http://www.yahoo.com/Business_and_Economy/Companies/Internet_Services/Web_Presence_Providers/Free_Web_Pages/))

But do it when you have plenty of time. There's a lot to see there. □

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# The inaugural Ron Wilby Awards

## WE REWARD OUR WRITERS

Carol Daniels



One of the most difficult and satisfying tasks for the *PC Update* editorial team this year was selecting the winners for the inaugural Ron Wilby awards. Difficult because we had to make fine distinctions between some very good contributors. Satisfying because it's great to be able to give tangible recognition to outstanding contributors.

If you read my monthly editorial you'll already know that I'm a bit of a broken record on the subject of contributions. If you didn't win this year, don't be discouraged. We encourage everyone to submit articles and we would love to double, triple or even quadruple the number of eggs in our basket.

These people are our stars, but they're stars because of the quality of their writing.

The only thing an editor likes better than getting a submission from a known, solid contributor, is getting a great submission (or one that hints at greatness waiting to be freed) from a new author.

With the categories in mind, we each went through the year's submissions and made a short list of candidates for each award. As difficult as it was to choose the winners, Ash, Peter and I had a remarkable consensus. We compared our individual lists and found amazing agreement. In virtually every category we had independently come to the same short lists and the same ranking within them.



Faye Wilby presents Bernaette Houghton with the major award—Best Contributor—and a cheque for \$2500, which Bernie plans to put towards a new computer.



George Skarbek receiving his award as writer of Best User Stories.



Bob Burt won the award for Best Reviewer.

## Melb PC/Maestro modem bulk buy — closes 13 December

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Of course contributors setting their sights on next year's awards will be wondering what makes these authors' stand out from the rest.

Their writing is accurate, and engaging. Their analysis is fair. They are versatile writers, able to instruct or entertain (sometimes both at once). They deliver their lively, well-crafted articles on time. They never let us down.

Each has his or her individual style, but they all have the knack of letting us see something of themselves in their writing. They all show some of the same spirit and genuine concern for their fellow members that characterised Ron Wilby's contribution to Melb PC and *PC Update*.

At our November meeting, we were honoured to have Ron's widow, Faye Wilby, with us to present the awards.



John Collins is our Best New Writer.

### Best Contributor

Winner (\$2500): Bernadette Houghton

### Best Reviewer

Winner (\$1000) Bob Burt

Honourable

Mention: Bryan Leech

### Best Writer of User Stories

Winner (\$1000): George Skarbek

Honourable

Mention: Peter Freeman

Tom Coleman

### Best New Writer

Winner (\$1000): John Collins

Honourable

Mentions: David Tyler  
Jean D'Andrea

Newer members may not know of Ron, who was a long-time, regular contributor to *PC Update*. His articles were reprinted around the world and were avidly read by newcomers to computing, not only for their technical content, but also for their humour and practicality.

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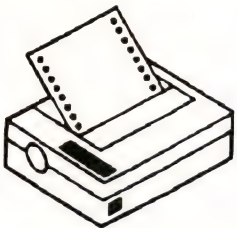
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The ever-popular Tom Coleman received an Honourable Mention for his User Stories.

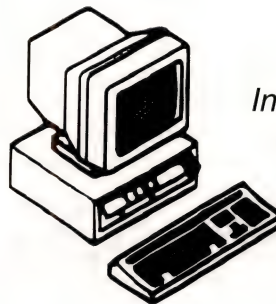
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# Seeing the Basics: Debugging using Step To Cursor

## VB 4 TIPS

Tony Stevenson



**W**hen eliminating bugs from your latest VB application, the debugging process sometimes could be hurried along if there were a convenient way of bypassing any loops with large numbers of iterations. For example take the following code associated with the click event of a command button (this sample application only consists of one form and one command button):

```
Private Sub Command1_Click()  
Dim i as Integer,  
    j as Integer, k as Long  
j = 2  
k = 2  
For i = 1 To 100  
    k = i + j + k  
Next i  
Print k  
End Sub
```

Note that the actual content and meaning of the code in this example is of no significance. What is important here is to demonstrate how to avoid stepping through each iteration of the For loop when in debugging mode.

Now imagine that a breakpoint has been established on the line  $k = 2$ .

A breakpoint is a location in the source code where the program stops running. To set the breakpoint when in design mode, click anywhere on the line using the mouse. Now select Run option on the main menu and then select the Toggle Breakpoint menu option. The line  $k = 2$  should now be highlighted.

Start the program running by pressing F5. Click the application's command button to force the program to go into break mode. The code window for the click event of the command button will be displayed with the cursor (insertion marker) positioned on the line  $k = 2$  (this line will also be surrounded by a box).

There are two possible ways of stepping through the program from this point onwards.

The first method is to select the Run menu option followed by the Step Into menu option which will set up the next logical line of the program ready for execution. By then repeating these menu selections, the program can be stepped through one logical line at a time, allowing it to be debugged. However instead of using the menu options the stepping through process can be achieved much more conveniently using either keyboard shortcuts or the Step Into button on the toolbar.

However, the process of stepping through a VB project one logical line at a time can soon become laborious, especially if a lengthy loop is involved as shown in our example. So in order to execute the loop without tediously stepping through each iteration of it, VB 4.0 has a new handy debugging feature called Step To Cursor.

Again run the program exactly as before so that it enters break mode at the line  $k = 2$ . But now select the line Print k (which occurs after the loop) using the mouse. Select the Run menu option

**This column provides techniques, tips, and tricks to help you gain familiarity and experience with Microsoft Visual Basic: a popular language that enables you to quickly write Windows applications.**

followed by the Step To Cursor option. By doing this program execution proceeds to the line which has just been selected using the mouse. It is important to note here that the code in the loop has been executed and not simply bypassed.

One final note: the Step To Cursor feature cannot be used to execute any lines of code previous to the current line of execution, that is, anywhere previous to where break mode has been enacted.

The new Step To Cursor feature is a valuable addition to the VB debugging toolkit. It will be appreciated by VB programmers because it will help to speed up the whole debugging process.

### Using a custom mouse icon

By setting just a couple of properties it is easy to change the appearance of the mouse pointer. By doing so your users can be alerted to special conditions which exist when they are running your applications.

In the following demonstration, a form has been set up with two list boxes. The first list box contains entries that are considered to be dangerous to handle or transport (dynamite, acid, poison, etc), whilst the second one contains non-toxic

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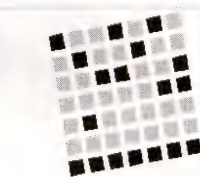
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goods (paper, pens, office furniture, etc).

When a user moves the mouse over the dangerous goods list box, the mouse cursor is immediately changed to an image of a stick of dynamite. This visual aid is meant to reinforce the seriousness of selecting an item from this list box. In a similar fashion, the mouse cursor is also changed when the mouse is passed over the non-toxic list box. But in that situation the cursor is visually represented as a friendly check mark.

To do this create a form containing two list boxes and two image controls.

Set up the image controls with the icons for the stick of dynamite and the check mark (both of these icons are located in the miscellaneous icon directory which ships with VB 4.0). Preload the icons into the respective image controls at design time using the image control's Picture property.

Now add the relevant entries (dynamite, acid, pens, paper, etc) to the appropriate list boxes. In our example, we are using List1 and Image1 for the dangerous goods and List2 and Image2 for the non-toxic ones.

Preload the list boxes at design time using VB 4.0's new List property. When entering elements into a list box in this way remember to press Ctrl+Enter after typing in each element and only press Enter after typing the last entry.

The small amount of required code is.

```
Private Sub List1_MouseMove  
    (Button As Integer,  
    Shift As Integer,  
    X As Single,  
    Y As Single)  
List1.MouseIcon = Image1.Picture  
List1.MousePointer = 99  
End Sub
```

```
Private Sub List2_MouseMove  
    (Button As Integer,  
    Shift As Integer,  
    X As Single,  
    Y As Single)  
List2.MouseIcon = Image2.Picture  
List2.MousePointer = 99  
End Sub
```

The value of 99 is Visual Basic's way of knowing that a custom icon has been set up using the MouseIcon property. However, in a production program, the built-in Visual Basic MousePointer constant, ccCustom, would be used in preference to the literal 99. The lines of code would then appear as:

```
List1.MousePointer = ccCustom  
and  
List2.MousePointer = ccCustom
```

#### E-mail address

Contact Tony Stevenson by e-mail at  
acsmls@acslink.net.au

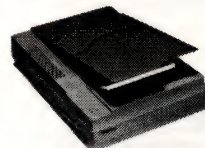
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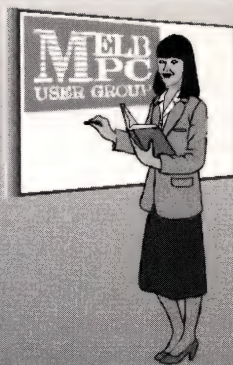
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# Training courses



DECEMBER 1996 – FEBRUARY 1997

Paul Palcsek

## Applications

### Introduction to Access v2.0: \$100

Ray Azzopardi

Two 2.5-hour sessions:

6.30 pm–9.00 pm, Tue 3 Dec,  
10 Dec. Enrol by 27 Nov.

Two 2.5-hour sessions:

6.30 pm–9.00 pm, Thu 6 Feb,  
13 Feb. Enrol by 31 Jan.

*This course will get you started on the road to making use of the powerful features in Access. You will learn how to create tables and queries. Students will receive a comprehensive exercise manual.*

**Prerequisites:** Experience with Windows and a mouse.

### Introduction to Word 6.0 macros: \$45

Noeline Finlay

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Tue 25 Mar.  
Enrol by 19 Mar

*Do you want to automate repetitive tasks? Do you want to tailor Word's toolbars to suit your needs? Learn how to use Word's powerful macro recorder to create your own macros. Learn how to modify Word's toolbars to save unnecessary keystrokes.*

**Prerequisites:** Must be able to create, save and edit Word documents, and have experience using a mouse with Windows.

### Quicken for small business: \$180

Viv Martin

Four 3-hour sessions:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Mon 3 Feb,  
10 Feb, 17 Feb, 24 Feb.

Enrol by 28 Jan.

*Bookkeeping, record keeping, producing reports for accountants.*

**Prerequisites:** Basic Windows experience assumed.

### Starting Excel v5: \$175

John Fitzsimons

Two 5-hour sessions:

10.00 am–4.00 pm,

Sat/Sun 8/9 Feb. Enrol by 31 Jan.

*Organise your facts and figures using Excel. You can use Excel as a simple database to keep track of assets or use it to keep track of your bank accounts. Excel has hundreds of uses. This course will give you a solid introduction to Microsoft Excel v5. Students will receive a comprehensive exercise manual.*

**Prerequisites:** Experience with using a mouse and Windows.

### Word for Windows v6/7 graphics: \$45

Noeline Finlay

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Tue 18 Mar.  
Enrol by 12 Mar.

*A picture says a thousand words. Learn how to use graphics to enhance your documents, letters, faxes etc.*

**Prerequisites:** Must be able to create, save and edit Word documents, and have experience using a mouse with Windows.

### Word for Windows v6/7 long documents: \$45

Noeline Finlay

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Tue 11 Mar.  
Enrol by 5 Mar.

*Do you have to manage long documents? Do you like to brainstorm? Use Word's inbuilt features to manage long documents, theses, novels, etc. Learn how to add section breaks, headers, footers, tables, indexes, page numbers, etc. Use Word's outlining feature to brainstorm ideas.*

**Prerequisites:** Must be able to create, save and edit Word Documents, and have experience using a mouse with Windows.

### Word for Windows v6/7 merging: \$45

Noeline Finlay

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 20 Feb.

Enrol by 14 Feb.

*Keep your customers or club members informed by using mail merge to create personalised letters. Also learn how to print labels and envelopes.*

**Prerequisites:** Must be able to create, save and edit Word documents, and have experience using a mouse with Windows.

### Word for Windows v6/7 tables: \$45

Noeline Finlay

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 27 Feb.  
Enrol by 21 Feb.

*Tables have hundreds of uses. Keep track of addresses, phone numbers, assets etc. Present data clearly, concisely and in a pleasing format. Learn how to insert formulas to produce accurate totals. Learn how to incorporate graphics in tables.*

**Prerequisites:** Must be able to create, save and edit Word documents, and have experience using a mouse with Windows.

### Word for Windows v6/7 templates: \$45

Noeline Finlay

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Tue 4 Mar.  
Enrol by 26 Feb.

*Save time and look professional. Learn how to create consistent and professional looking memos, letters, etc, using templates.*

**Prerequisites:** Must be able to create, save and edit Word documents, and have experience using a mouse with Windows.

## Communications

### Communications workshop: \$60

Doug Brooke

One 4-hour session:

6.30 pm–10.30 pm, Fri 24 Jan.  
Enrol by 17 Jan.

One 4-hour session:

10.00 am–4.00 pm, Sat 15 Feb.  
Enrol by 7 Feb.

One 4-hour session:

10.00 am–4.00 pm, Sun 16 Mar.  
Enrol by 10 Mar.

*Data communications depends heavily on modems. This course is discussion of principles and fundamentals of modern communications that will allow you to more effectively use a modem to communicate on the BBS and like services, including the Internet. You will be shown hardware requirements, software requirements, diagnostics and typical setups so that you can more confidently use your modem, PC and telephone line. An introduction to networks, file transfers and other matters will also be covered.*

**Prerequisites:** A good working knowledge of command line computing is assumed.

### Setting up Telemate and Telix: \$45

Doug Brooke

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 30 Jan.  
Enrol by 24 Jan.

*Designed to help novices set up and use Telemate and Telix. Includes troubleshooting and useful commands.*

**Prerequisites:** Command line computing knowledge assumed.

### Using Blue Wave: \$45

Toby Bainbridge

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 29 Jan.  
Enrol by 23 Jan.

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 26 Mar.  
Enrol by 20 Mar.

*Basic setup, hints, tips and configuring Blue Wave communication offline reader.*

**Prerequisites:** Must have done either Comms workshop or Starting Comms.

## Microsoft Access Trainer required

With one of our regular MS Access Trainers taking on other responsibilities within Melb PC, a vacancy exists for someone with specialist skills in the use of this powerful DBMS.

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## Internet

**Note:** Internet courses are best done in the sequence shown—1 to 5; or 1, 2 or 3, 4 and 5.

### 1. What is the Internet?: \$45

Lynn Pollock

One 3-hour session:

9.00 am–12 noon, Sat 14 Dec.

Enrol by 6 Dec.

One 3-hour session:

9.00 am–12 noon, Sat 22 Feb.

Enrol by 14 Feb.

One 3-hour session:

9.00 am–12 noon, Sat 22 Mar.

Enrol by 14 Mar.

An overview of the Melb PC Internet service. Live demonstrations of all the major programs that go to making up the Internet. Discussion of the Hardware items involved. General questions concerning Internet connections.

**Prerequisites:** None.

### 2. Using the Melb PC Internet service—Windows 3.1: \$90

Lynn Pollock

Two 3-hour sessions:

1.00 pm–4 pm, Sat/Sun 7/8 Dec.

Enrol by 2 Dec.

Two 3-hour sessions:

1.00 pm–4 pm, Sat/Sun 18/19 Jan.

Enrol by 10 Jan.

Two 3-hour sessions:

1.00 pm–4 pm, Sat/Sun 1/2 Feb.

Enrol by 26 Jan.

Two 3-hour sessions:

1.00 pm–4 pm, Sat/Sun 1/2 Mar.

Enrol by 21 Feb.

This is a basic course exclusively for Windows 3.1 and 3.11 users. Hands-on individual installation of Windows 3.x Internet software. Explanation, discussion and live connections to demonstrate all the major components. Covers all aspects of Internet connection. Basic discussion on broad range of Internet topics including Netiquette, viruses and common connection problems. Suit people about to install basic Windows 3.x Internet software or novice users of the Internet.

**Prerequisites:** Must have a good working knowledge of Windows 3.1.

### 3. Using the Melb PC Internet service—Windows 95: \$90

Lynn Pollock

Two 3-hour sessions:

9.00 am–12 noon, Sat/Sun

7/8 Dec. Enrol by 29 Nov.

Two 3-hour sessions:

9.00 am–12 noon, Sat/Sun

18/19 Jan. Enrol by 10 Jan.

Two 3-hour sessions:

9.00 am–12 noon, Sat/Sun

1/2 Feb. Enrol by 24 Jan.

Two 3-hour sessions:

9.00 am–12 noon, Sat/Sun

1/2 Mar. Enrol by 21 Feb.

This is a basic course exclusively for Windows 95 users. Hands-on individual installation of Windows 95 32-bit Internet software. Explanation, discussion and live connections to demonstrate all the major components.

Covers all aspects of Internet connection. Basic discussion on broad range of Internet topics including Netiquette, viruses and common connection problems. Suit people about to install basic Windows 3.x Internet software or novice users of the Internet who want to use the inbuilt Windows 95 32-bit TCP/IP software.

**Prerequisites:** Must have a good working knowledge of Windows 95.

### 4. Effectively using Web Browsers: \$60

Lynn Pollock

One 4-hour session:

1.00 pm–5.00 pm, Sat 14 Dec.

Enrol by 6 Dec.

One 4-hour session:

1.00 pm–5.00 pm, Sat 22 Feb.

Enrol by 14 Feb.

One 4-hour session:

1.00 pm–5.00 pm, Sat 22 Mar.

Enrol by 14 Mar.

Complete demonstration and explanation of all features and configurations in the latest versions of Netscape and MS Internet Explorer. Configuring new helper applications, managing bookmarks or favourites, and tips & tricks to maximise your browser usage. Discussion on various searching techniques for locating information on the Web and other browser-related issues.

**Prerequisites:** Must have attended basic Internet course or have a reasonable Internet understanding. This is an intermediate course.

### 5. More using Melb PC Internet service: \$90

Lynn Pollock

One 6-hour session:

9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sun 23 Feb.

Enrol by 17 Feb.

One 6-hour session:

9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sun 23 Mar.

Enrol by 17 Mar.

Complete demonstration and explanation of e-mail (advanced packages) FTP, Archie, Gopher, Finger, Telnet, IRC Network, newsgroups and offline readers, list servers, session timers and more. In addition, connection problems will be discussed as well as general tips and tricks to improve your connection time. A set of detailed instructions will be discussed and practised detailing how to upgrade or add to your Internet software without causing major problems or heartaches.

**Prerequisites:** Must have attended basic Internet course or have a reasonable Internet understanding. This is an intermediate course.

## Operating Systems, Diagnostics, Hardware

### Computer basics: \$120

Mary Levens

Four 2-hour sessions:

6.30 pm–8.30 pm, Tue 4 Feb,

11 Feb, 18 Feb, 25 Feb.

Enrol by 29 Jan.

Take control of your computer with this hands-on guided discovery of

DOS-based computing. Covers terminology, basic DOS commands, directory structure, file types, brief discussion of hardware and software. Knowledge of these topics is prerequisite for other courses.

**Prerequisites:** No prior computing experience required. Students must have frequent access to a DOS-based PC outside of class.

### Housekeeping a computer: \$45

Tom Coleman

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–8.30 pm, Tue 28 Jan.

Enrol by 22 Jan.

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–8.30 pm, Mon 17 Mar.

Enrol by 11 Mar.

Looking after your PC to get the best performance out of what you have. Avoiding bad habits, bad practices.

**Prerequisites:** Understanding of simple computer terminology. Experience with basic DOS and the computing environment.

### How to buy a computer: Free

Tom Coleman

One 3-hour session:

10.30 am–1.30 pm, Sun 1 Dec.

Enrol by 25 Nov.

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 12 Dec.

Enrol by 6 Dec.

**How to buy a computer:** \$60 non-members (includes first year's subscription), members \$10

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 28 Feb.

Enrol by 21 Feb.

One 3-hour session:

10.30 am–1.30 pm, Sun 23 Mar.

Enrol by 11 Mar.

What a computer does, what the jargon means, buying advice, tips, no sales talk!

**Prerequisites:** None.

### Introduction to Networks: \$90

Len Krois

Two 3-hour sessions:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 7 Feb,

14 Feb. Enrol by 31 Jan.

This session will show you how to connect two or more computers so that you can share computer resources.

**Prerequisites:** You must be familiar with Windows 3.x or Windows 95.

### Introduction to UNIX: \$45

Len Krois

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Mon 24 Mar.

Enrol by 17 Mar.

UNIX/LINUX basics for people that want a basic feel for the open systems environment. LINUX is a popular shareware version of UNIX that will run on IBM compatible PCs. The session includes: logging onto a UNIX system, finding your way around, manipulating files, viewing and editing text files, using the on-line text manual.

**Prerequisites:** Command line computing knowledge preferred

### Memory management: \$45

Tom Coleman

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 21 Feb.

Enrol by 14 Feb.

Techniques for maximising your PC's available memory, CONFIG.SYS commands, diagnostics.

**Prerequisites:** Basic DOS skills.

### Starting Windows 95: \$137.50

Len Krois

Three 2.5-hour sessions:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 12 Feb,

19 Feb, 26 Feb.

Enrol by 6 Feb.

Introduces the Windows 95 environment to the computer novice. You'll learn basic Windows jargon and terminology, how to accomplish everyday tasks and all of the skills you'll need to work in Windows 95. Students will receive a comprehensive exercise manual.

**Prerequisites:** None. However, you will have an advantage if you have had some exposure to computers and have used a mouse.

### Upgrade to Windows 95: \$137.50

Len Krois

One 7.5-hour session:

9.00 am–5.30 pm, Sat 15 Mar.

Enrol by 9 Mar.

This course is for Windows v3.1 (or v3.11) users moving to Windows 95. A thorough overview of all of the new features you are getting with Windows 95 so you can quickly convert your Windows 3.1 skills to the new Windows 95 arena.

**Prerequisites:** You should be familiar with Windows v3.1 to the level of the Starting Windows v3.1 course.

### Virus protection: \$45

Tom Coleman

One 3-hour session:

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 14 Mar.

Enrol by 7 Mar.

Virus avoidance, detection and removal, viruses explained, recognising viruses, safe housekeeping practices.

**Prerequisites:** "Computing Basics" course or an equivalent knowledge of computing. □

## Notes

To book or enquire about courses, telephone the office on (03) 9699 6222, 9 am – 5 pm, weekdays.

Courses are held at the group's premises, usually in the training room. Some courses are held in the SIG room, so check when you arrive.

For more details see the BBS or the group's web pages.

The address is:

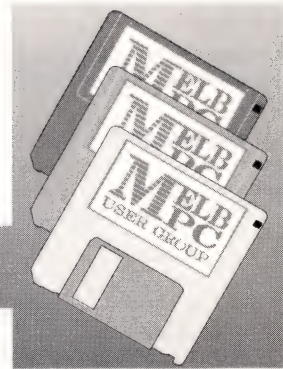
2nd Floor, 66 Albert Road  
South Melbourne VIC 3205.

There is usually plenty of parking available nearby in the evenings or at weekends.



# What does membership of Melb PC offer you?

## BENEFITS OF BELONGING



### Strength

Melbourne PC User Group Inc. has over 11,500 members and is the largest PC User Group in the world. It was founded in 1983, and is still run for its members, people like **you**.

The Group employs a Chief Executive Officer, two full-time office staff and some part-time help. Some other services are provided by contractors, but most other functions of the club—magazine writing and editing, maintenance of online services; collection and distribution of shareware; organisation of SIG and monthly meetings and much more, is performed by volunteers.

The Group today proudly has a membership of people from all walks of life and with a broad range of computer skills. With this vast store of knowledge, members have access to information and help in numerous fields—programming, software solutions, communications, DOS and Windows, to name just a few.

### Training

One of the Group's most important and popular services is the provision of training in a diverse range of computer skills, from starting with computers to advanced programming.

Melb PC has its own fully-equipped training centre, using networked Pentium systems. Courses are run as a service to members and thus are budgeted on a break-even basis, making them very cost-competitive when compared to similar courses elsewhere.

Students are taught in a classroom environment with an instructor and one computer per student. Courses include applications (such as Quicken, Excel and Word), BBS and Internet usage, and operating systems such as DOS and Windows.

Most classes are run in the evenings or at weekends, when parking is readily available. The Club's rooms are also easily accessible by public transport.

All courses provide suitable training material and support.

A list of courses on offer to members appears in each issue of *PC Update*.

### Magazine

*PC Update*, the magazine of the Melbourne PC User Group, is sent to you 11 times a year as part of your membership privileges. *PC Update* publishes articles written by members and all members are welcome, indeed encouraged, to write articles on a subject they know about, to share with others. *PC Update* reprints occasional articles from overseas user groups, to keep Melb PC members as up-to-date as possible.

*PC Update* has won awards in each of the last six years in the International User Groups' Newsletter Contest. Some of the dozen awards it has won are "Best Feature Articles," "Best Publication," "Best Features and Reviews," and "Best Columnist." It has also been runner-up in "Best Publication" and "Best Layout and Design." Many people join the Group just for the value *PC Update* provides, well worth the annual membership fee on its own, and then discover all the other benefits of membership.

A year's membership of Melb PC, which includes having *PC Update* mailed to you, costs about as much as it does to buy a year's issues over the counter.

### Monthly meeting

Each month, except January, Melb PC holds a meeting, open to members and visitors. The meeting is usually addressed by two representatives from the computer industry on topics of general interest. They frequently give away samples of software and other products. These speakers include many from Australian vendors and distributors—we have also been privileged to be addressed by CEOs such as Bill Gates, Philippe Kahn, Gordon Eubanks and others who made special visits to address our members.

There is also the ability to address questions to the membership at large, seeking advice or problem-solving. Shareware and diskettes are for sale and members take the opportunity to socialise and discuss anything that takes their fancy—even computers!

Following the meeting many members gather for further discourse over a meal, arranged at a convenient restaurant, at "user-friendly" prices.

### Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The Group has a number of SIGs covering many aspects of computer use. A SIG can deal with any topic relating to personal computing, ranging from particular applications to hardware and programming, or how to get the best from your equipment.

There are also regional SIGs, for members in outlying geographical areas.

A list of meeting dates, places and contacts for SIGs is published each month in this magazine, together with reports of previous and forthcoming activities. Attendance at any or all SIG meetings is available to any member.

### Bulletin board

Melb PC operates a 23-hours-a-day bulletin board system (BBS) as another member service. The BBS, running on 34 lines, is the biggest OS/2-based BBS in the world.

The BBS has two main functions—electronic mail and message exchange, and file transfer facilities. The mail and messaging facilities enable members to exchange messages with each other and to seek help on a wide range of topics, not only from other members but also from the world-wide PC community. This service gives BBS users access to an enormous pool of experience and talent on a vast array of subjects. If you have a problem, put a message on the BBS and, more often than not, it's answered in a day or so!

The BBS carries many files on a range of topics. These have been uploaded by members who found them useful and can be downloaded by other members. They include many useful utilities and the latest versions of shareware software, often obtained from overseas BBSs before appearing in other Australian outlets.

### Internet service

The club provides access to a 96-line full-featured Internet service, providing access to Usenet, ftp, irc, www, gopher and telnet.

SLIP/PPP accounts are provided. This service is very popular and is being expanded and enhanced to serve a larger number of members.



## Software library

Melb PC maintains an extensive and up-to-date software library of programs (over 1300 disks, with about 50 new disks added each month) for IBM-type personal computers, obtained from around the world. This library of shareware software is available only to Melb PC members and is supplied on new disks at very low prices.

An order form for this software is in every issue of *PC Update*.

## Shareware registration

Much of the most popular software on Melb PC's Bulletin Board and in its software library is shareware, i.e. try free and pay only if you like and use it.

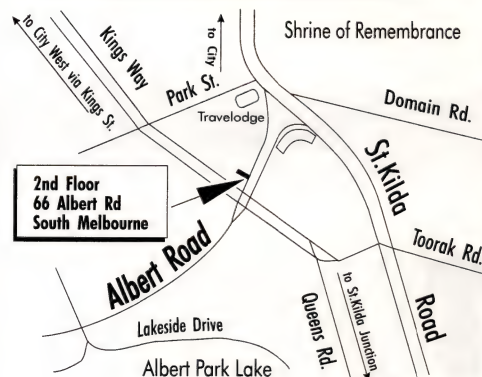
The club organises bulk shareware registrations, usually at a substantial discount.

Club-organised registrations also save members the costs of US-dollar bank drafts and overseas postage.

## Computer First-Aid and Dial Help

This unique service is made available free to members simply because volunteers within the Group give their time and knowledge to assist you with any computing problems you may have. About 300 telephone numbers of unpaid volunteers, with day- and night-time contacts, are mailed to members with their *PC Update*. The service covers over 120 separate topics. □

## Melbourne PC User Group Locality Map



Melbourne PC User Group Inc  
2nd Floor  
66 Albert Road  
South Melbourne VIC 3205

Phone: (03) 9699 6222  
(9 am - 5 pm)

Fax: (03) 9699 6499

# You owe it to yourself . . . Join or renew now !

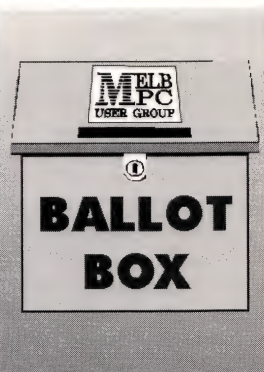
## MELB PC Membership Application

Forward to Melb PC, PO Box 283, South Melbourne VIC 3205, Australia

Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Dr <input type="checkbox"/> Other .....		First Name: .....	Init: .....	Last Name: .....	Ref: 1296
Home Postal Address				Member Number (if renewing)	
Postcode				Country	
Telephone Numbers		BH: ( )		AH: ( )	
Job Title					
Employer/Company Name *					
<p>* Attach list if more than one corporate representative, or more than one family member is being nominated with this application. Corporate members may change their representative(s) by giving notice in writing to the Secretary.</p>					
<b>Type of Membership:</b>		<b>New Member</b>		<b>Renewal</b>	
Individual		<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	(extra family members—\$10 each)	
Corporate (2 representatives)		<input type="checkbox"/> \$130	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120	(extra representatives—\$60 each)	
Full-time Student		<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	(Students must attach photocopy of student card or letter from educational institution confirming full-time student status.)	
Pensioner		<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	(Pensioners must attach a photocopy of both sides of their Pensioner Concession Card.)	
I want <input type="checkbox"/> / do not want <input type="checkbox"/> to receive occasional promotional mail from commercial organisations.					
I hereby apply for membership of Melbourne PC User Group Inc and agree to abide by its rules while I remain a member.				Signature	
				Date / /	
Cheque (payable to Melbourne PC User Group Inc) enclosed <input type="checkbox"/>				<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$</div>	
or Debit my credit card (Bankcard <input type="checkbox"/> / Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> / Visa <input type="checkbox"/> ) Expiry Date ____/____ with					
Credit Card No. <input type="text"/>					
Cardholder's Name				<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$</div>	
Signature					
				Date / /	



# Annual General Meeting



## NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE

*Peter Smith, Returning Officer*

**T**he Annual General Meeting and election of office bearers will be held on Wednesday 4 December 1996 at 6.30 pm at Pharmacy College, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville.

If you cannot attend you may vote **either** by completing the postal ballot paper **or** by appointing a proxy. Photocopies of these forms are acceptable. **Please do not submit both a proxy and a postal ballot.**

Postal ballot papers and proxies must be mailed to

Peter Smith  
Returning Officer  
PO Box 786  
Ringwood VIC 3134

to arrive not later than the last mail delivery on Tuesday 3 December 1996. Alternatively **small** quantities of proxies (but not postal ballots) may be handed personally to the returning officer at the Pharmacy College **before 5 pm** on Wednesday 4 December 1996.

Please note that proxies and ballot papers cannot be submitted by fax, e-mail or via the BBS.

The returning officer, at his sole discretion, may accept or reject any or all proxies delivered after the last mail on Tuesday 3 December. Please endeavour to deliver proxies as early as possible—proxies delivered late on Wednesday that would overload the election officials, delay conduct of the election or delay declaration of the election result will not be accepted.

Financial members attending the meeting will be issued with ballot papers upon production of a current membership card or other evidence of financial membership (such as the mailer from this issue of *PC Update*).

Elections will be held for all positions other than that of Vice-President, for which there is only one nomination. Details of those nominated appear below in a random order, drawn by lot. Names of candidates, proposers and seconders appear as they were provided on the nomination papers.

Candidates' statements appear in the style and spelling in which they were provided.

### Candidates for President

#### Stan Johnstone

Thomasina St, Bentleigh East

Proposer: **George Skarbek**

Seconder: **Morris Tobias**

The coming year is a crucial one, and the decisions made during this time will determine the whole future of Melb PC.

It will require the complete co-operation of a dedicated and unified Committee working together to achieve the results that are necessary for the continued well-being of the members.

Many members may be unfamiliar with many of the names on the ballot paper, and if this is the case I urge you to delegate your proxies to someone whom you respect, and may be expected to help determine the team necessary for our future.

#### Mark Trickett

Smoko via Bright

Proposer: **Richard John**

Seconder: **Bill Kessler**

As a paricipatory member at numerous SIG's over several years, I have seen a decline in the friendly, helpful and co-operative club spirit.

I desire to restore this club spirit while consolidating the past growth and moving on into the future in a positive and responsible fashion.

#### Barry McMenomy

Neville St, Middle Park

Proposer: **Marcus Limosani**

Seconder: **Robert Mead**

I have been a member for 10 years, on the committee for 3 years (part of which as Treasurer), Sysop for 4 years and am a Life Member. We are in critical need to re-unite and motivate, and provide a sense of purpose to everyone contributing to the services this club offers to members.

We need a Volunteer Co-Ordinator urgently. If 50 people volunteered help tomorrow, no-one would know what to do with them. We need a members lounge, a serious library and far better services to those beginning in computing. We should be proud of our club!

### William Charles Davis

James St, Preston West

Proposer: **Thomas Kimberly**

Seconder: **John A Waltrowicz**

I have been actively involved with Melbourne PC User Group for several years as a volunteer, providing technical assistance to members and representing the group at swap meets.

If elected to the committee, I would focus on improving the management of the Group's resources, and increasing its responsiveness to members. Specifically, I would work toward:

- Increasing communication by publishing committee meeting minutes online
- Establishing mechanisms to account for Group hardware and software assets
- Ensuring that technically competent operators administer online services
- Improving access to Shareware for members without modems by linking the Shareware library to the BBS

### Candidate for Vice-President (elected unopposed)

#### Morris Tobias

Los Angeles Crt, St. Kilda East

Proposer: **Stan Johnstone**

Seconder: **John Morris**

Melb PC has undergone many changes since my previous terms as a committee member and Vice President back in the late 80's. I believe that it is now time to get involved again in the core of the Group as a business oriented manager, as there are many issues that need addressing for our future.

I have at my own expense attended the last three meetings of the international association of PC User Groups (APCUG) held annually in Las Vegas. This association continues to stimulate and introduce new ideas and enable bringing of these ideas to the committee.



## Candidates for Secretary

### Bill Ford

Mary St, Hawthorn

Proposer: **Keith Beresford**

Seconder: **Stewart Melville**

My extensive work experience has been primarily in the finance and management areas of not-for-profit welfare organisations. For the last year I have been working with the MelbPCUG training sub-committee assisting with administration, and liaising between the sub-committee and the Committee of Management.

I believe that the Committee of Management will be able to use my experience and skills for the benefit of the Committee and members generally.

### Don McKenzie

St.Kilda Road, Melbourne

Proposer: **Robert Mead**

Seconder: **Felix van Lier**

As Secretary I would:

Replace the Slip Kit.

Improve our Internet Service and provide more lines where needed.

Not allow Free Internet accounts & reserved lines except for Technical Support.

Look at ways to Compensate Internet Subscribers who did not get value for money.

Hire two part time Technical Staff for member assistance.

Turn the Committee room into a members lounge.

Get more contributors to bring the magazine back to previous standards.

Distribute unpublished "Review Software" at monthly meetings.

Not allow the BBS to be closed or downgraded.

Publish Committee Minutes & make them available at monthly meetings.

### David Graham

Dryburgh St, North Melbourne

Proposer: **Myles Strous**

Seconder: **Ken Holmes**

The legal duties of Secretary are described by the Constitution and by the Associations Incorporation Regulations. In addition, the secretary has to be able to work with a committee and with the members. Aged 36, I have over 15 years management experience in large (\$million +) and small (\$nil) not-for-profit organisations, and I hope to use that experience to provide professional service to the committee and the club. A member for longer than I can remember, a professional programmer, a graduate engineer, and an occasional volunteer, I bring with me technical experience plus extensive knowledge of the club.

## Candidates for Treasurer

### Robert Mead

Pengelly Crt, Sunshine

Proposer: **William Charles Davis**

Seconder: **David Graham**

#### MEMBERS

I HAVE BEEN A MEMBER FOR THREE YEARS & IN THAT TIME I HAVE BEEN A VOLUNTEER IN THE OFFICE ASSISTING WHERE NECESSARY

AS WELL AS BEING A REGULAR AT THE SWAP MEETS HELPING TO MAN THE STAND THE GROUP HAS HAD THERE

I FEEL THAT I CAN GIVE FURTHER OF MYSELF TOWARDS THE GROUP BY TAKING THE NEXT STEP BY BEING A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE

I ALSO FEEL THE GROUP NEEDS FRESH PEOPLE & IDEAS ON THE COMMITTEE

AND WITH THE SIZE OF THE GROUP AS IT IS, BETTER USAGE OF THE GROUPS ASSETS IS NEEDED,

### Bruce Elliott

Mt. Ida Ave, Hawthorn East

Proposer: **Robert Smith**

Seconder: **Morris Tobias**

(No statement supplied)

## Candidates for Committee (eight to be elected)

### Ash Nallawalla

Burke St, Werribee

Proposer: **Carol Daniels**

Seconder: **Stan Johnstone**

A \$1M organisation and an award-winning magazine are no accident.

We need business managers, not specialists.

Life Member, Vice-President, Managing Editor, Webmaster, APCUG Director in 1996; other titles since 1988. Melb PC benefits through the links I have established with other groups and vendors. I have helped create user group news-groups and mailing lists on the Internet.

On average I spend five hours daily for the group using electronic media in preference to being seen at SIG meetings.

Visit <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/ash> for more.

### Yahya Abdal-Aziz

Darnley Grove, Mulgrave

Proposer: **Felix Hofmann**

Seconder: **Myles Strous**

Your club is the world's biggest. But I believe Melb PC should be ten times bigger!

New drivers belong to the RACV—and experienced ones too. When you break down, who'll get you going?

PCs give people power over their own lives. Let's get out there, and show the kids, minorities and disabled what a

great chance this is! This time next year, I plan to see SIGs in schools, neighbourhood houses and shopping centres.

Myself? Business analyst; club member since 1985.

Charles Wright asked me to help grow the SIGs. There's nothing I'd like more.

### Gloria Simos

Church St, Parkville

Proposer: **J. M. D'Andrea**

Seconder: **Robert Mead**

I have been one of the silent majority of the group for many years and have only been actively involved as a swap meet volunteer since 1995. I am standing as I would like to see more female involvement in the committee where I feel we could exert a calming and uniting influence.

I am currently employed as a technical writer with formal qualifications in librarianship and computing. I support the role of *PC Update* to disseminate information and advice on PC topics

Let's concentrate more on furthering the aims of the group and less on political infighting.

### Allan Michelmore

Howard St, Epping

Proposer: **Mark Currie**

Seconder: **Leon Leech**

(No statement supplied)

### William Charles Davis

3 James St, Preston West

Proposer: **Robert Mead**

Seconder: **Thomas Kimberley**

(See statement above)

### Mark Trickett

Smoko via Bright

Proposer: **Richard John**

Seconder: **Bill Kessler**

(See statement above)

### Carol Daniels

Ross St, Toorak

Proposer: **Ash Nallawalla**

Seconder: **Stan Johnstone**

All over the world, user groups are shrinking, some disappearing altogether. We're growing. Why? Because Melb PC has grown with its members. As the diverse population called "users" changed, so did Melb PC. Never content to move with the pack. Melb PC leads the way. It's anticipated and met members' changing needs.

Past success doesn't guarantee future glory. The challenges facing us—to remain relevant to our members, build on our strengths, sustain our financial base—have never been greater.

With my background in marketing and business communication, I believe I can help Melb PC meet these challenges



## Jean D'Andrea

Hammond St, Thornbury

Proposer: **Gloria Simos**

Seconder: **Alan Carter**

Joining the Group four years ago, since 1994 I've become involved with various activities. The First-Aid Line, Collingwood Swap Meet, and writing occasional articles for *PC Update*, to name a few. I have also helped on the Communications Team, and am currently the Assistant Sysop (Messages), on the BBS. Although my principal interests are Communications and Volunteers, I would like to see the Group continue to improve its other services to members.

## Alan Flowerday

Ardrie Rd, Malvern East

Proposer: **Robert Mead**

Seconder: **William Charles Davis**

To support my Nomination as Committee Member for your Group I add, I am 62 Y/o., M/Dir. of my own Insurance based Company, retired member of the Vic. Police, have sat at Prahran Court as Hon. Magistrate, am a Justice of the Peace and Bail Justice. I feel a Committee Member requires, common sense, fair play and a knowledge & understanding of Business Principles which I respectfully suggest I have, and am an active Volunteer at Swap meets. I have the time to fulfil the expected duties and pledge my earnest endeavours to justify this appointment to your satisfaction.

## Keith Beresford

Manchester Rd, Mooroolbark

Proposer: **Bill Ford**

Seconder: **Ian Paterson**

This committee has worked well together, we have seen many improvements over the last year and I can see many challenges still ahead. I believe I still have something to give. I'm still committed to giving our members the best that the membership can buy. When re-elected I look forward to being part of the decision making process putting forward the idea's from the members interested in keeping this group the largest and best in the Southern Hemisphere.

## John P Morris

Rimmer St, Mentone

Proposer: **Stan Johnstone**

Seconder: **Lynn Pollock**

It has been a privilege to serve on the Melb PC Committee over the past year.

Many of you know me from my work assisting new Internet users, but my background was IT Management and teaching Systems Analysis and Programming.

I have co-ordinated the Swap Meet presentations, and I have worked in all aspects including the selling of raffle tickets at Monthly Meetings.

I ask your support in my re-election to the Committee, and urge those who are not familiar with the other nominees to at least allocate their proxy vote to someone who you believe will represent them conscientiously.

## David Graham

Dryburgh St, North Melbourne

Proposer: **Myles Strous**

Seconder: **Ken Holmes**

(See statement above)

## Robert Mead

Pengelly Crt, Sunshine

Proposer: **William Charles Davis**

Seconder: **David Graham**

(See statement above)

## Bill Ford

Mary St, Hawthorn

Proposer: **Keith Beresford**

Seconder: **Stewart Melville**

(See statement above)

## Don McKenzie

St.Kilda Road, Melbourne

Proposer: **Robert Mead**

Seconder: **Felix van Lier**

(See statement above)

## Note

The order in which candidates' details appear above is the same as the order in which their names appear on the ballot paper.

This order was determined at random in the following manner:

- Candidates were listed alphabetically
- A random number generator was run a random number of times and the results used to sort the candidates' names into the sequence shown. □

# Minutes of 1995 AGM

*Stan Johnstone, Secretary*

**T**he 12th Annual General Meeting of Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated was held on Wednesday 6 December 1995 at 6.35 pm at Pharmacy College, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville.

## 1. Minutes

**Motion:** "That the Minutes of the 11th Annual General Meeting held on 7 December 1994, be approved as a true and correct record."

Moved: Morris Tobias

Seconded: Colin Lovitt. *Carried.*

## 2. President's Report

The President's Report was published in the December 1995 issue of *PC Update*.

**Motion:** "That the President's Report be received."

Moved: Peter Smith

Seconded: Bruce Elliott. *Carried.*

## 3. Election of Committee of Management

As previously advised by the returning officer, the nominations for the positions on the committee were exactly equal to the number of vacancies, and no election was required.

## 4. Accounts

The Treasurer's Report was published in the November edition of *PC Update*.

**Motion:** "That the statement pursuant to section 30(3) of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981* containing the Income and Expenditure of the Group for the year to 30th June 1995 and the assets and liabilities of the Group at 30th June 1995 be accepted."

Moved: Colin Lovitt

Seconded: Ren Bemko. *Carried.*

## 5. Appointment of Auditor

**Motion:** "That Peter G. Salter, Registered Company Auditor (the Group's current Auditor) be reappointed to the position."

Moved: Morris Yobias

Seconded: Ash Nallawalla. *Carried.*

## 6. Special resolution for an alteration of Rules

This was set out with an explanation in the November edition of *PC Update*.

**Motion:** "That a new rule 3(1) (g) (c) be added: 3(1) (g) (c) is suspended for the duration of his or her employment by the Group."

Moved: Ash Nallawalla

Seconded: Charles Wright. *Carried.*

Meeting closed at 6.40 pm. □



## Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated Postal Ballot Paper

### Annual General Meeting 4 December 1996

Postal ballots close on  
Tuesday 3 December 1996

#### Candidates for President

Mark one box only to indicate the candidate of your choice

- ☐ Stan Johnstone
- ☐ Mark Trickett
- ☐ Barry McMenomy
- ☐ William Charles Davis

#### Candidates for Secretary

Mark one box only to indicate the candidate of your choice

- ☐ Bill Ford
- ☐ Don McKenzie
- ☐ David Graham

#### Candidates for Treasurer

Mark one box only to indicate the candidate of your choice

- ☐ Robert Mead
- ☐ Bruce Elliott

#### Candidates for Committee

Mark up to eight boxes to indicate  
the candidates of your choice

- ☐ Ash Nallawalla
- ☐ Yahya Abdal-Aziz
- ☐ Gloria Simos
- ☐ Allan Michelmores
- ☐ William Charles Davis
- ☐ Mark Trickett
- ☐ Carol Daniels
- ☐ Jean D'Andrea
- ☐ Alan Flowerday
- ☐ Keith Beresford
- ☐ John P Morris
- ☐ David Graham
- ☐ Robert Mead
- ☐ Bill Ford
- ☐ Don McKenzie

## Instructions for voters unable to attend the meeting

You may take one of the two actions listed below and submit one of the forms on this page. If both forms are completed, the proxy will be ignored. A photocopied form is acceptable.

### 1. If you know how you wish to vote

- Use the postal ballot paper at the left
- Mark your selections
- Place the ballot paper in a sealed envelope
- Print your name and membership number on the outside of this envelope and sign it
- Put this envelope in another envelope, addressed to

Peter Smith  
Returning Officer  
PO Box 786  
Ringwood VIC 3134

- Mail it to arrive by 3 December 1996

### 2. If you wish someone else to vote on your behalf

- Use the proxy form below
- Legibly fill in the details and sign it
- Place it in an envelope addressed to

Peter Smith  
Returning Officer  
PO Box 786  
Ringwood VIC 3134

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## Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated

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being also a member of Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated or failing the person named above, or if no person is named, the Chairperson of the Meeting to vote in accordance with the directions enclosed or, if no directions have been given, as they see fit or abstain from voting at the Annual General Meeting of Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated to be held on 4 December 1996 and at any adjournment thereof.

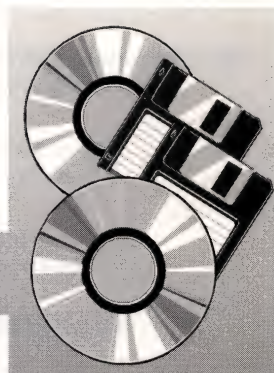
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# Shareware/Freeware library update

TRY BEFORE YOU BUY

Glenn Webster



## Updates

### Melb 2546 Video Launch Pad v3.0

The Video Launch Pad is an ideal MOV/AVI video file player. It allows you to store up to 10 videos in memory, all playable at the touch of a button, by simply clicking on the "Select/Store Video" button and then the "Play Video" button. No more hunting through directories each time you want to play your favorite video clips. The names of the stored clips are displayed on the screen so they are easy to remember. Quickly browse through all videos in a directory. It also allows you to switch between Full Screen mode and Window mode for displaying video. It features a drag bar to "scroll" through the video as it is updated in real time, along with standard stop, play, and rewind controls. Some advanced features include the ability to freeze frames, play in reverse, and capture and save frozen image as BMP files. This update includes support for WAV and MIDI audio files. Requires an 80486 or faster processor, Windows 3.1 or later, 4 MB of RAM, and a video card with drivers for Windows loaded. Also requires Quicktime Extensions (on Melb 8276) and Video for Windows (on Melb 8159). A registration fee of US\$29 brings you a CD-ROM filled with video clips, and the video screen saver "Full Motion".

### Melb 2587 Childrens MIDI collection and Christmas MIDI collection

This disk contains two collections of MIDI files. One collection (of 23 MIDI files) contains songs and tunes favoured by young children. It should keep them amused for hours. The other collection contains 13 good quality songs with a Christmas theme. All have been collected from BBSs over a number of years. Many of the files have been re-mixed for better sound quality. You will need a sound card and a MIDI file player (as in MS Windows) to play these tunes.

### Melb 8002 Hypertext Virus Summary 9608

This program is revised regularly to make available up-to-date information on all known viruses. The hypertext format of the information presented enables quick reference to any virus, variant or related species. The program is now extensively cross-referenced. It can be navigated easily using the menus supplied. This revision covers more than 3629 viruses and variants. Regn for home use is US\$30. Other uses require a site license agreement.

### Melb 8017 Terminate v4.00

Terminate is a communications package which has online help for novices but retains the flexibility experts require. Fax and Network support, CD Audio Player, complete Point system, Cost Manager, and

autologins are just some of the features of this program. It has a superb file manager, improved OS/2 timeslices and support for Digicom, ISDN and Fossil up to 115,200 bps. It can use either a Fax or Data modem in host mode with an adaptive answer modem chosen from a very thorough configuration pick list. Terminate provides support for sight- and hearing-impaired users. This version corrects some minor bugs. Non-commercial registration is A\$70.

### Melb 8046 Bert's African Animals v4.6 Melb 8047 Bert's Christmas v4.6 Melb 8048 Bert's Dinosaurs v4.6 Melb 8049

### Bert's Prehistoric Animals v4.6 Melb 8050 Bert's Whales and Dolphins v4.6

These disks provide colouring programs for children of all ages, but they are especially useful for introducing young children to the computer. The programs were designed (by educators) to be used by young children with a minimum of assistance by adults. Children can design their own picture, by placing the various animals, all in four different sizes, on a variety of backgrounds, using the mouse. The children can even write a short story about their picture, using the keyboard. The programs should operate with all Sound Blaster and compatible sound cards. This version includes some minor corrections and enhancements. These programs require 512 KB of RAM, 1 MB of hard disk space, DCS 3.0 or later, a VGA display and a mouse. A Sound Blaster card or the PC speaker can be used for voice. Regn is US\$32 for one program and US\$5 for additional programs.

### Melb 8279 Clock Talk 32 v1.0

Clock Talk is a program for Windows 95 or Windows NT. Its purpose is to announce the time of day, and it has many other features as well. It uses digitized human speech, reproduced through a sound card, and can be configured to play CDs, launching or closing of programs, playing or recording of a sound file or to pop up a message. Clock Talk uses minimal system resources to run, which make it ideal for a replacement for the clock in Windows in a notebook computer. Requires an 80486 or better processor, a Windows 95 compatible sound card and Windows 95 or Windows NT.

### Melb 8401ACDSee for Windows v1.31B

ACDSee is a high-performance image viewer. You can view images as they are being decompressed. Quick image thumbnail previews are provided, with slideshows, drag-drop, fit to window, quick zoom in/out and pan controls accessible via a tool bar. It also allows you to view and edit 4DOS file descriptions. The program supports BMP, GIF, JPEG, Photo-CD, PCX, PNG, TGA, and TIFF image files. This

version adds batch printing of images, reverse and random slide show images, and has fixed problems when viewing some large JPEG images and PNG grayscale images. Requires Windows 3.1 or later. Regn is US\$18 for a license only, or US\$30 for a license and disk. Site licenses are also available.

### Melb 8440 HyperSnap v2.66

HyperSnap, which was formerly SnapShot/32 brings professional quality, convenient Windows 95 and NT screen captures to your fingertips. Choose your own hot keys that quickly capture the entire desktop, any rectangle you outline, or the highlighted window or client, and automatically save each of your captures to a file by default—you can even trigger new captures every x seconds and have the filename incremented. Print your capture direct from HyperSnap—it will expand the image to the size of the paper and margins that you set, and even add a frame, reverse, or reduce the output to black and white! You can save your image as a BMP, GIF, JPEG file. GIFs can optionally be interlaced and include transparent back-grounds. HyperSnap will create JPEG files, including the new progressive format JPEGs, that are becoming popular on the World Wide Web. BMP graphics can be saved in 16, 256, 64 k or 16 m colours. This version corrects a bug in the installer program and a printing error when printing in black and white. Requires Windows 95/NT. Regn is US\$20.

### Melb 8448 WinPolis board game v2.35

WinPolis is a board game that is based on the old game of Monopoly. You can play it with up to four players (humans or computers). The aim of the game is similar to Monopoly, where you buy titles to land, but in WinPolis, you also improve them by purchasing furniture, leasing the building, or leaving it as an empty shop, and by doing so, ruin other players in their quest for dominance. If you are lucky, you get to visit the casino and get rid of your money, or earn more. This version includes new and modified sound files to accompany the game. Requires an 80286 or later, Windows, 2 MB of RAM, VGA graphics and a mouse. Regn is DM25.

### Melb 8566 Snagit Twin Pack Windows Screen Capture Utility v3.1

Snagit Twin Pack is an easy-to-use Windows Screen Capture utility for Windows 3.X, Windows 95 and Windows NT. It captures your screen, window or region, to the printer, clipboard, or a variety of file formats, including PCX, JPG, TIF, and BMP. It fully supports Dynamic Data Exchange (DDE) and MAPI for easy integration into your applications. Snagit supports all Windows video modes and rastering printers. This version adds new Active Capture Technology for better screen captures. Requires Windows 3.1 or later, 640 KB of RAM, 500 KB of hard disk space and a mouse. Regn is US\$40.



## Melb 8568 Drag and Zip for Windows 95 v1.15

Drag And Zip connects with Windows 95 Explorer or the Windows NT File Manager and makes them into Zip file managers. Under Explorer you can zip and unzip with just a right button click. Drag And Zip comes with built-in zipping and unzipping, and it includes support for zipping to multiple diskettes. Virus scanning has been built-in also. Drag And Zip can extract the popular Internet GZ and TAR formats. Drag And Zip installs itself as a viewer for ZIP, GZ, TAR and LZH files in Mosaic and Netscape. You can make self extracting zip files, zip files with long file names and path names, and you can

make zip backup sets to totally automate zipping. This version provides much tighter integration with the companion product, Drag And File for Win 95/NT (on Melb 8429). Drag And Zip needs an 80386 or better processor and Windows 95/NT (3.5 or better). Regn is US\$30.

## Melb 8575 Ecopad 32 Text Editor v3.50

Ecopad32 is a text editor replacement for Windows Notepad. It can print up to 8 pages of text on one sheet of paper (on both sides!). Ecopad is compatible with all True Type fonts/point sizes and supports any printer that can be used with Windows 95 or Windows NT 3.51. This updated release is a

maintenance fix for previous 3.X versions, and can now load and print files of up to 32 MB in size. It requires Windows NT 3.51/Windows 95 or later, 4 MB of RAM and 1 MB of hard disk space. Regn is US\$25.

## Melb 8589-8591 Microsoft Internet Explorer v3.0 (3 disk set)

This is a complete Internet browser, mailer and newsgroup reader, intended for Windows 3.1/3.11 users. Internet Explorer enables you to browse and view HTML documents on a network, in addition to documents on the World Wide Web or Internet. Other services, such as Gopher and FTP, and NNTP news support, are also available. It includes wizards for installation and Internet connection, a dialer program for connecting to your Internet service provider, a browser and a mail client. Requires Windows 3.X, an 80386 or faster processor, 4 MB of RAM, a VGA or better video card and monitor, a mouse and a modem of 9600 bps or faster (or a LAN connection). Regn is free and can be done online.

## Melb 8664/8665 McAfee Virus Scan for Windows 95 v2.0.7 (2 disk set)

These disks contain the McAfee Anti-Virus set of programs for Windows 95. These programs must be installed on your MS Windows 95 system prior to use. Instructions have been included on the disk. **Remember to write-protect these floppy disks before use.** This version of VirusScan95 detects 68 new viruses and removes 38 of them. It also features a new Administrative Mode which enables System Administrators to lock VirusScan95 configurations on users' systems and a new ScreenScan utility to automatically scan your system for infected files when your screen saver is active. VirusScan95 requires MS Windows 95. Regn is US\$65. These programs have been reissued as a two-disk set because they will not fit on a single high-density disk. Consequently disk Melb 8308 has been deleted.

## Melb 8666 NetHack v3.2

NetHack is a text-based Dungeons and Dragons like adventure game where you (the adventurer) descend into the depths of the dungeon in search of the Amulet of Yendor, reputed to be hidden somewhere below the twentieth level. You begin your adventure with a dog or cat that can help you in many ways, and can be trained to do all sorts of things. On the way you will find useful (or useless) items, possibly with magic properties, and assorted monsters. The game has more than 20 levels, more than 150 rooms and countless corridors. Dangers abound in this game, which is not for the novice. This version has many new features, such as floppy drive support, colour, debug mode, Elbereth, status line information, insurance files for

## Members' Top Choice Shareware

These are some of the most popular volumes in the Melb PC Shareware/Freeware library. Refer to the regular catalogue updates in *PC Update* for up-to-date listings of other disks—use the lower part of this order form for your choice from those listings.

Shareware/PD Title	Melb No.	Format	Qty	Amount
Shareware Catalogue & New Member Disk	0000	3.5 / 5.25		
PKZip/PKUnzip	1235	3.5 / 5.25		
List	1490	3.5 / 5.25		
Windows 3.1 Screen Savers	2326	3.5 / 5.25		
Accu Music System	2455	3.5 / 5.25		
The Pianist for Windows	2459	3.5 / 5.25		
Wolfenstein Fights Street Fighter I	8012 (HD)	3.5 / 5.25		
Graphics Workshop	8015 (HD)	3.5 / 5.25		
McAfee Antivirus Suite for DOS	8018 (HD)	3.5 / 5.25		
McAfee Antivirus Suite for Windows 3.x	8215 (HD)	3.5 / 5.25		
McAfee Antivirus Suite for Windows 95	8308 (HD)	3.5 / 5.25		
Telix	8062 (HD)	3.5 / 5.25		
MS-DOS 6.22 Stepup from 6.0 (3-disk set)	8110/11/12 (HD)	3.5 / 5.25		
Telix for Windows v1.00 (2-disk set)	8129/30 (HD)	3.5 only		
Growit	8157 (HD)	3.5 / 5.25		
Shez	8259	3.5 / 5.25		
		3.5 / 5.25		
		3.5 / 5.25		
		3.5 / 5.25		
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recovering from crashes, Keystone Kops, a log file, a news file, a re-do command, a shell command, a rogue level, screen clipping, sinks, tourists, walled mazes, weapon proficiency and zero-compressed save files. NetHack can be configured graphics and sound card options. NetHack is free-ware. This program has been re-issued as a single, high-density disk. Accordingly, disks Melb 1095 and 1096 have been deleted.

## New Disks

### Melb 2583

#### The Internet Ferret's Fancies

This is an eclectic collection of favourite sites on the World Wide Web chosen by The Internet Ferret. These sites include descriptions of art galleries and museums, movie reviews, online cameras, libraries, holiday and travel guides, electronic magazines and newspapers, government home pages, various countries, literature, news links and many more. Internet addresses have been provided with each description. This disk would provide a handy starting point for both beginners and experienced Web surfers. It is a summary of the final session of our recent Internet Seminar.

### Melb 2584

#### LaserCompare v1.2

LaserCompare is an ASCII file comparator. With it you can take two ASCII files, which may be of different lengths, and compare them for mismatches. Every mismatch is displayed onto a scrollable window one at a time, then the files are automatically synchronized for the next mismatch. It is able to compare millions of lines within seconds. LaserCompare has the ability to transmit output to 14 different locations in one pass. It is great for batch files. This utility is fully functional and it has no evaluation period. Requires an 8088 or better processor and DOS 3.0 or higher. Regn is US\$10.

### Melb 2585

#### Paper Mill v1.0

Paper Mill is a seamless backdrop generator for Windows 3.1 or later, featuring over 30 image processing tools and utilities. These tools include freehand drawing with pan and zoom, onscreen backdrop samples, image processing features and UNDO/REDO. All of these tools are combined with a powerful palette editor for creating an endless variety of textures for backdrops and wallpapers. Requires Windows 3.1 or later, a mouse and a VGA or better video card and monitor.

### Melb 2586

#### Mini-CD for Windows 95/NT v1.2

Mini-CD for Windows 95/NT is an Audio CD player for the 32-bit Windows environments. When the program starts, it checks the CD-ROM drive for a disc, if any, and determines its type. If it finds an audio CD, playback is started. If there is no CD in the drive or the CD is a data CD-ROM, the program shuts itself down. The control buttons for the CD are located in the upper left hand corner of Windows' desktop and are floating on top of other windows. The mode button switches between normal mode and movable mode. Requires Windows 95 or Windows NT version 3.51 or later, a CD-ROM drive, a Windows 95-supported sound card and a mouse. Regn is US\$5.

### Melb 8660

#### Web Ferret v0.90

Web Ferret is the easiest way to locate the information that you want on the Internet. WebFerret queries large Web Search Engines to quickly and efficiently find whatever it is that you are looking for on the World Wide Web. WebFerret will query all configured search engines simultaneously, while discarding any duplicate results. Results that are returned, often within a second or two, can be accessed immediately. New search engines are added automatically to the application as they become available. Requires Windows 95 or later, a mouse and a SLIP or PPP connection to the Internet.

### Melb 8661

#### Email Ferret v0.87

Email Ferret quickly and efficiently locates Email addresses using multiple publicly accessible databases. Find the Email addresses of people, companies, or machines simply by entering a name. The search query can be further limited by specifying, for example, company name or location. Once the results have been returned into the standard ferret results list, you can choose to add selected addresses to your default address book. Alternatively, email addresses can be copied into your mail client. Email Ferret requires Windows 95 or later, a mouse and a SLIP or PPP connection to the Internet.

### Melb 8662

#### IRC Ferret v0.87

Using the IRC protocol, IRC Ferret is able to find any IRC user, channel or topic on the world's IRC servers. Searches are specified by the keywords you enter, matching them against every IRC user's email address, nickname, and description. You can even limit specific channels to search. The IRC networks will be searched simultaneously, without you having to manually connect and search yourself. Searches are done intelligently and efficiently to save you time and bandwidth. Requires Windows 95 or later, a mouse and a SLIP or PPP connection to the Internet.

### Melb 8663

#### News Ferret v0.87

News Ferret enables you to search for Usenet news articles without having to access each newsgroup separately. It automatically joins multi-part messages together and can retrieve messages without having to start up a separate news client or web browser. Binary attachments that are encoded with uuencoding, binhex and mime can be automatically decoded. News Ferret can start up your registered news client to access a particular newsgroup in the search results. It uses advanced NNTP commands, where available, for enhanced performance. News Ferret requires Windows 95 or later, a mouse and a SLIP or PPP connection to the Internet.

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## Melb 8667 Computer-managed Shop v2

This is a Point-of-Sale application for a small retail business. You can use it to replace your cash register with a computer system to supply your business with more information. It is simple to use and works like a cash register. You can use the bar-code on products (without needing a bar-code scanner) and have the computer display an item description and price. Stock levels are adjusted at the time of sale for sale analysis, reordering and stocktakes. Payment may be by cash, plastic cards, lay-by or account. A summary of the days trading can be viewed and printed. Some of the many features include a till balance function, integrated lay-by system, manual pricing for bulk items/special sales, low stock warning, stocktake function, rounding of cash payment totals to nearest five cents and passwords. Requires an XT or later processor, 640 KB of RAM, 1 MB of disk space, a B/W or colour monitor, a printer and a cash drawer. A bar-code reader/scanner is optional. Regn is A\$30 from a local author.

## Melb 8668 TOM v1.02

TOM is a free-form text retrieval program that enables you to create and maintain an electronic version of a filing cabinet. It features pull-down menus and windows and a built-in full screen editor for easy file editing. TOM has a powerful indexing engine that indexes every word in your files for fast access. The fast search engine provides quick and easy access to your information using words, numbers, dates and phrases. You can formulate advanced search conditions using wildcards, logical operators and delimiters, such as AND, OR, NOT, \*, "" and (). Tom can be used as a file management tool and as a text retrieval tool. No matter how many documents you have in your filing cabi-

net, any word, sentence or number is just a few key-strokes away. Requires a PC with 512 KB of RAM and DOS 3.x or later. Regn is A\$40 (printed manual \$15 extra).

## Melb 8669 Nova Chess v1.11

Nova Chess is a chess program for MS-DOS. It is simple and easy to use, designed to compliment existing chess programs, not replace them. Nova Chess is effective in teaching you how to play chess, as it will only allow you to make moves that can keep your pieces alive. The colours of the gameboard can be configured to change the colour of the playing pieces, squares and other aspects of the game. Requires an 80386 or faster processor and a mouse.

## Melb 8670 Serville Software Movie Editor v1.0

The Movie Editor is a suite of programs for creating, editing and playing back movies on an IBM PC. MEDIT is a program for creating PC text screen movies from frames created by external applications. Each frame is a 4000 byte 80 x 25 character screen shot containing both character and attribute information. A suitable editor is supplied, called FEDIT, or you may wish to use a third-party application such as TheDraw (available on Melb 1270). Requires a colour monitor, and ANSYS to be loaded. Regn is 50 pounds Sterling.

## Melb 8671 CD-Quick Cache for Windows 95 v1.20

If you've ever wished you could speed up your CD-ROM drive, then CD-Quick Cache is the program for you. CD-Quick will dramatically increase the performance of your CD-ROM drive. By storing frequently read sectors in fast XMS memory, disc

reads are almost instantaneous. CD-Quick uses advanced caching techniques and dynamic read ahead buffering to insure top performance. Let CD-Quick make your CD-ROMs fast! CD-Quick cache also includes CDETEST to measure your CD-ROM drive's performance and the Windows' QUICKMON program to show cache statistics in real time. This version for Windows 95 allows you to turn off caching the drive for certain types of files, and is much slimmer than its Windows 3.X partner. Requires MS-DOS 3.1 or later, an 80286 or faster processor, XMS memory and a CD-ROM drive. Regn is US\$29.

## Melb 8672 Penny's Arcade v2.0

Penny's Arcade is a MS Windows 95-based shooting gallery. The program features 256-colour rendered graphics, full sound, online help and an easy-to-use graphical interface. Penny's Arcade also provides a practice mode and a competition mode of use. Requires Windows 95 or later, a 256-colour video card and monitor correctly installed under Windows 95, 4 MB of RAM, a mouse and a Windows 95 supported sound card. Regn is US\$10.

## Melb 8673 Turbo Picture Poker v2.0

Turbo Picture Poker is a Windows based poker game. Turbo Picture Poker features fast gameplay with high quality graphics and a Pie Graph to show you the percentage of hands won. If you win a hand that is two pair or better, you can select any BMP, JPG, GIF, PCX picture or WAV audio file to play, or you can show pictures in a directory at random. Full pop-up help is available on all of the games controls. Requires Windows 3.1 or later, a VGA or better video card and monitor, a Windows-supported sound card and a mouse. Regn is US\$25.

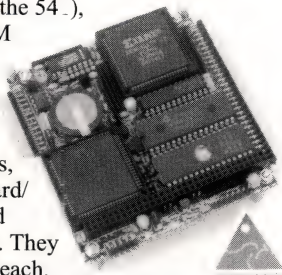
# Australian-made Embedded Computers: PC/104 or ISA bus

## PC540/1 PC/104 Computers

These computers use the PC/104 bus, an international standard for embedded systems. The X86 instruction sets suit standard PC compilers, or the \$179 Pacific C Compiler. These boards use the 386C188EB and V51 CPUs.

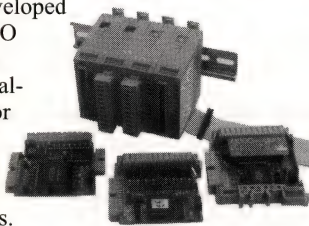
The boards run programs from PROM or a FLASH-based DOS provides the familiar DOS environment. DRAM to 1 Mbyte or CMOS RAM to 512 Kbyte is available.

Both boards have two serial ports (550 compatible on the 540), RTC, EEPROM and Xilinx gate arrays for additional I/O. The 540 has 40 I/O lines, The 541 has hard/floppy disk and LPT interfaces. They are \$350/\$450 each.



## JBLOCK Modular I/O for PCs, Embedded Single-board CPUs

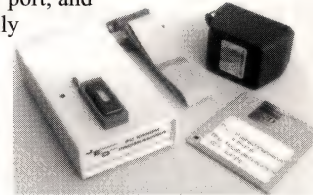
JED has developed a range of I/O modules for industrial real-world I/O for a variety of applications driven from SBCs or PCs.



A 26-way ribbon cable, called a JBUS cable, runs in multi-drop mode from an I/O port on any single-board computer to a 26-pin connector on each I/O module. JBUS has an 8-bit address and bi-directional data bus, and low-tru READ, WRITE, and ADDRESS strobes. Timing is simple: strobe address and then data into the modules. An address switch in the top of each module sets up the address. Up to 63 modules are addressable, with 8 I/O per module. Modules released are 8 relay out, 8 opto in, 8 analog (12-bit) in and PC printer port to JBUS.

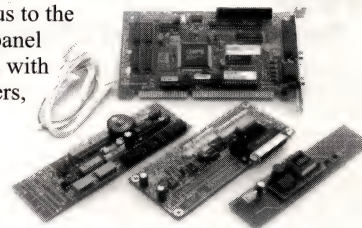
## \$300 PROM Programmer

This no-fuss programmer plugs into a PC's printer port, and automatically writes PROMs from 8 k to 4 Mbytes.



## AT350, AT351 LCD/EL VGA

JED has released a family of ISA-bus VGA interfaces to electroluminescent, mono, passive and active (TFT) liquid crystal panels. These boards offer a total solution, from the ISA bus to the back-panel boards with inverters, etc.



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Boronia, Victoria, 3155  
See our data sheets at  
[www.jedmicro.com.au](http://www.jedmicro.com.au)



**Melb 8674****Microangelo v2.1**

Microangelo is a Windows 95/Windows NT-only icon editing suite. It provides access to icons of all sizes and colour formats used by Windows 95. You can browse, manage, create and edit icons from 8x8 pixels, up to 64x64 pixels in size, and up to 256 colours. Microangelo features an Explorer-like Browser for viewing your icons, and specializes in locating icons on your system. Icons may be edited in Microangelo's accompanying Studio, Library, and Animation programs. The Microangelo Engineer makes it easy to replace system icons, remove shortcut arrows, etc. Requires Windows 95 or later, 4 MB of RAM and a mouse. Regn is US\$25 for a basic version, or US\$45 for a professional version.

**Melb 8675****Mini Animator v1.17**

Mini Animator is a Windows based program that can be used to create your own animation files, using clips and cartoons from your machine. Sixteen images may be played back at varying speeds to provide short animated clips you can save and play from the Program Manager. Requires Windows 3.1 or later, a mouse, and VGA or better video card and monitor. Regn is US\$13.

**Melb 8676****Guitar Teacher for Windows 95 v3.00**

Guitar Teacher for Windows 95 is the 32-bit version of Guitar Teacher for Windows 3.1. Guitar Teacher is a system for displaying guitar-chord diagrams. Each chord can be quickly selected and instantly displayed. The program supports Sound Blaster and other MIDI-compatible audio cards, seven chord formulas (major, major 7, minor, minor 7, suspended 4, suspended 4), six alternatives for each chord, 504 chord diagrams in total, formula and voicing displayed and right- or left-handed fingering. It includes a guitar tuner and instructions on tuning and chord structure. This version enables you to print and save chord charts. Requires Windows 95 or later, a VGA or better video card and monitor, and a mouse. A MIDI-compatible sound card is supported but not required. Regn is US\$25.

**Melb 8677 Drag and File Gold v2.00**

Drag and File Gold is a file and archive manager for Windows 95 and Windows NT. Drag and File Gold is a very powerful file manager, enabling ZIP, GZ and TAR files to be uncompressed. Each of these files appear as folders on the disk tree with their contents in the file pane. Extracting files is as easy as copying or moving. It has a built in virus scanner for removing viruses from archives. It also allows you to make ZIP files with long file and directory names. Requires an 80386 or faster processor, Windows 95, 4 MB of RAM and 3 MB of hard disk space. Regn is US\$55.

**Melb 8678****Penny Penguin's Math Bingo v2.4**

Penny Penguin's Math Bingo is a Windows 95 multimedia game designed to teach your child addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. With the help of animation and sound effects, Penny will play Bingo with your child, gently helping him or her to choose the correct block. It requires an 80386 or faster processor, Windows 95 or later and a mouse. Regn is US\$10.

**Melb 8679****Midnight Express v1.0**

MIDnight Express is a real-time, wavetable MIDI player which does all of its work in software. It will run with any sound card (correctly installed under Windows 95) capable of playing 16 bit stereo,

22050 Hz digital audio. It can also copy its output to a WAV file for quick and dirty MID to WAV rendering. While MIDnight Express is designed to work alongside WAVmaker for Windows 95/NT, It can also run as a standalone player, and a simple renderer. Requires an 80386 or faster processor, Windows 95 or later, 16-bit sound card and 1 MB of hard disk space. Regn is free to registered WAVmaker users.

**Melb 8680****Event Manager v1.42**

Event Manager is a Windows 3.X, Windows 95 and Windows NT task scheduler. Its purpose is to enable your computer perform tasks such as, downloading files, or performing backups, while you're away or busy. You can schedule up to 41 tasks to be run during the week. Each task can have a command line parameter to specify options or to load a file. You can also have Event Manager send keystrokes to your programs to make them do any task you require while you are away. Requires an 80386 or faster processor, 4 MB of RAM, Windows 3.1 or later and a mouse. Regn is US\$10.

**Melb 8681****JetLauncher Program Launcher v1.1**

JetLauncher is a handy launching bar for Windows users. Think about it. How much time do you waste searching through program groups looking for the right icon to click? This unobtrusive toolbar-like program launcher allows single-click access to your most often used files and programs. Words rather than pictures easily differentiate between files no matter which program created them. Configure as many as twenty workgroups of up to ten programs each and increase your productivity. Requires an 80386 or faster processor, Windows 3.1 or later, 4 MB of RAM and a keyboard. Regn is US\$21.

**Melb 8682****Notebook for Windows 95 v3.8**

NoteBook is a large file editor for Windows 95. The features of this program include the ability to open large files of over 4 MB, support for drag and drop editing, and full font control support. It contains a handy toolbar to store the most used tools. Edited work may be saved and printed. Requires Windows 95 or later and a mouse. Regn is US\$15.

**Melb 8683****Windows Enforcer v1.0**

Windows Enforcer protects systems that are accessible to many people and require a consistent configuration and a consistent, limited selection of services. This is accomplished by ensuring that specified tasks either never run or always run. It is easy to configure and requires little to no modifications to your current system configuration. Windows Enforcer requires Windows 95 or later and a mouse. Regn is US\$5.

**Melb 8684/8685****(2 disk set)****Paint Shop Pro v4.1 (for Win 95/NT)**

Paint Shop Pro is a Photo Retouching, Painting, Image Format Conversion, and Screen Capturing program for MS Windows. Its many features include support for 8 different brush styles (pen, pencil, marker, crayon, chalk, charcoal, airbrush, and paintbrush); Photo Retouching Tools for easy touch-up, blending and duplication of image areas, quick selection of similar areas for manipulation and detail enhancement in small areas. You can also use the eye dropper to pick up and analyze a colour from an image. Image Enhancement and Editing tools enable you to perform flip, mirror, rotate, and crop operations, add borders and frames,

and resize and resample your image. Paint Shop Pro ships with 20 standard image filters and you can create your own filters as well. Colour Enhancement Tools enable you to alter the hue, saturation, lightness and RGB levels of images, as well as adjust the brightness and contrast, and change the highlight, shadow, and midtone areas. Paint Shop Pro provides support for over 34 file formats. Requires MS Windows 95/NT 4.0. Regn is A\$110.

**Deletions**

The following disks have been deleted/replaced.

Melb 8101/8102 Entombed for Windows v1.0, replaced by Melb 8421/8422 Entombed for Windows v2.1 Episode 1

Melb 2492 File Manager Guard v1.21, replaced by Melb 2582 File Manager Guard v2.09

Melb 2290/1886 FRACTINT for Windows v17.25, replaced by Melb 8505 FRACTINT for Windows v18.21

Melb 2407 Icon Manager v3.6, replaced by Melb 8519 Icon Manager v3.6 and Icon Studio v1.0

Melb 8410 Money Smith 95 v3.1, replaced by Melb 8510 Money Smith 95 v3.1 (for Windows 95/NT)



**HUGE  
COMPUTER  
SWAP  
MEETS**

**Sunday 1st December  
Sunday 5th January  
MALVERN TOWN HALL**  
cnr High St & Glenferrie Rd

**Sunday 8th December  
Sunday 12th January  
Choice of two Swap Meets  
COLLINGWOOD TOWN HALL**  
140 Hoddle St. Collingwood  
*or*  
**BOX HILL TOWN HALL**  
1022 Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill

**Sunday 15th December  
Sunday 19th January  
CAMBERWELL CIVIC CENTRE**  
340 Camberwell Rd, Camberwell

**Sunday 26th January  
MOORABBIN TOWN HALL**  
cnr. South Rd & Nepean Hwy

**Everyone welcome to Buy — Sell — Exchange**  
9am to 5pm, Entry \$2.50, stands from \$6.00.  
For details phone (03) 9886 1466



# Members' free ads

## SAVE A DOLLAR

### Member-to-member deals

#### WANTED

Secondhand, Adobe Photoshop for Win 95. Fractal Design Painter 4.0. Any good 3D rendering program (3D Studio, DreamScape, Strata Studio, RayDream, etc.) All on CD-ROMs if possible. Any offers would be greatly appreciated.

John Cameron, Eltham. (03) 9437 1918, or leave me a message on the BBS. e-mail: kiwa@geocities.com

A Teletext card for a PC.

Ralph (03) 9419 5875

Legal copy of XYWrite III Plus, original disks and manual.

Paula Ruzek (03) 9583 5884 (anytime)

#### FOR SALE

Kodak Dataslow (greyscale), with 1 metre cable for PC. Fully functional. Originally cost \$1,800. Sell for \$500 ONO

dBASE III + 15-user pack, network version. Still in shrink wrap. Originally cost \$1,500. Sell for \$300 ONO

External DSHD 5.25-inch floppy drive to suit Toshiba Notebook. Originally cost \$500. Sell for \$100 ONO

Guy (03) 9826 0211 BH

**DISPOSAL TIME!** (Some of the following items are mine, some belong to the former NEC SIG of Melb PC).

A. NEC APC-III parts "free to good home," although a small donation to Melb PC funds appreciated. NOT sold as in working order although many are. NOT IBM-compatible but could suit experimenters or hardware buffs (I can supply some data). If nobody wants them for anything, they'll go to the tip as neither I nor the user group has room for them. That seems a pity. (Does anyone know of an electronic parts recycler—who they exist in UK but that's a bit far away!)

A1. NEC system units, very strong steel case, mostly with Intel 8086 motherboard and power supply, I/O connectors etc, quantity available. (Power supplies are non-standard size but have standard volts—I think.)

A2. NEC HD controllers, seem to work OK, quantity available.

A3. NEC 10 & 20 MB HDDs, some work but mostly pretty crook, quantity available.

A4. NEC mono monitor, hi-res text / CGA graphics, similar interface and screen quality to Taxan Super Vision 4, one only, working status unknown.

A5. Large quantity 8-inch floppy disks, suit older NEC and other really ancient computers.

A6. Quantity NEC manuals in strong A5-size 3-ring binders and slip cases, chuck the innards away and use the binders for storing those little manuals and data sheets we all accumulate.

A7. Quantity SSD 5.25-inch floppy disks, will mostly format to DSHD 360 KB.

B. Various items suit any computer, cheap as chips. Interface cards, floppy disk drives etc. Also Microsoft v2 macro assembler, brand new manuals/disks in NEC packaging, suit any computer, just right for those little programs in PC Magazine, \$25.

NEC ELF spinwriter printer, platen & tractor feed, possibly not working, spare daisy-wheels and other parts, \$35.

CGA card & mono monitor, \$20.

Lots of other bits'n pieces available—ask me if I've got one!

C. NEC APC-III personal computer in full working order and being used daily, 640 KB RAM (wow!) huge 10 MB disk (double-wow!), with colour hi-res monitor, IBM-compatible "SLE" card, native and SLE DOS 3.1 and various software including PCWrite, Supercalc, Full manuals. Only \$25 will secure you a fully-working word-processing unit for your kids' essays. Boat owners seeking anchor should also apply.

D. NEC P3 18-pin dot matrix wide carr. printer, tractor feed, several spare ribbons, fully working \$125.

OK! Microline 93 9-pin ditto, very heavy duty, \$100.

C'mon folks, it don't get cheaper than this! All must go, make me an offer.

David Power 019 160 991

Panasonic KX-P4450 Laser printer (equivalent to HP LaserJet Plus). Needs service call. Free to a good home. \$60 to take toner refill with it.

MS Dangerous Creatures CD-ROM. Package unopened. \$20

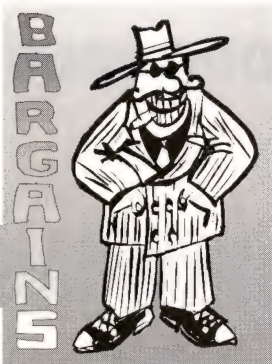
Paula Ruzek (03) 9583 5884 (anytime)

Laptop: Laser LT321 386SX/16, 4 MB, 40 MB HD. Includes carry case, DOS, Windows, MS Works (DOS). \$650 neg

Vintage computer: IBM ix 512 KB, 2 x 360 KB 3.5-inch FDD, colour monitor Includes MS-DOS for ix. \$50 neg

SVGA monitor 14-inch Colorsonic. \$150 neg  
Mono VGA monitor 12-inch IBM. \$50 neg  
Mono "composite" (mono, CGA?) monitors (2). Offers?

Jim Maunder, Box Hill Nth (03) 9890 5466  
jim@melbpc.org.au



Quantum SCSI Prodrive LPS 240 MB, mounting cradle and manual. No bad sectors. \$59

Gordon Harris (03) 9801 6164,  
018 566 947

HP 4P LaserJet printer 600 dpi, 4 ppm, 45 scalable fonts, software, manuals, cables, original packing, excellent condition. \$849  
HP PaintJet colour inkjet printer rebadged as Digital LJ250, both black & colour ink cartridges mounted together, serial interface, spare colour cartridge & HP special paper (lots), manuals, cables for PC & DEC-connect, perspex stand, original packings, rarely used, excellent condition \$205

Peter (03) 9882 3510 Hawthorn East

MS-DOS 6.22 and Windows for Workgroups 3.11, complete with all manuals. \$75  
Microsoft Money 3.0, with all manuals. \$30  
Microsoft Home Series CD Value Pack, includes Works, Encarta 95, Dangerous Creatures and CD Sampler. \$75

Microsoft Access 1.0, complete with all manuals. \$50

Microsoft Access 2.0, complete with all manuals. \$70

Sidekick for Windows 1.0. \$30

OS/2 2.11 with Bonus Pak (IBM Works, FaxWorks, HyperAccess Lite, IBM Internet Connection, IBM Multimedia Viewer, etc), complete with all manuals. \$75

OS/2 2.11 Unleashed 2nd Ed, by Maskowitz & Kerr, includes CD-ROM. \$50

Microsoft Word for OS/2, with manuals. \$40

Microsoft Excel for OS/2 2.2, with manuals. \$40

Microsoft Excel for OS/2 3.0, with manuals. \$40

Freelance Graphics for OS/2 1.0, with manuals. \$40

Lotus 1-2-3 2.01, with manuals. \$50

Multimate Advantage 1.0, with manuals. \$30

Microsoft Windows 3.0 (3.5-inch disks only). \$30

Norton Desktop for DOS Version 1.0, complete with all manuals. \$40

Pick Systems R83 Pick for PCs Version 2.1 for 10 users, complete with manuals. \$75

Stacker Version 3.1, for Windows and DOS, with all manuals. \$40

Gipher 5400 external tape backup unit, complete with controller card, cable and tape backup software. \$75

Datacraft Quincraft 9600 bps modem, V32, MNP-5, includes manual. \$75

Ivan Lutrov (03) 9623 3758 BH.

# or MAC IMAGESETTING

If you use any postscript desktop publishing program (Corel, PageMaker, FreeHand, Ventura, Quark, Illustrator etc) you can quickly and economically output your files on our high speed, high quality imagesetter. 3000 dpi, 175 lpi screens, Bromides or colour films Scanning, special effects, file conversions, graphic design and conventional typesetting available.



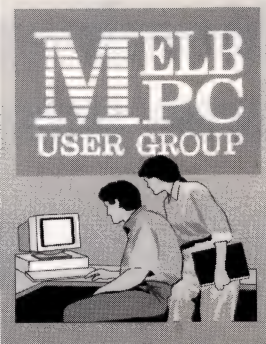
Pagination  
DESIGN SERVICES

(052)232494

14 Albert Street, Geelong West



# Special interest group meetings



## CLUB ACTIVITIES

### Access (Database)

#### Ray Watson

(03) 9883 4382 AH  
Fax: (03) 9576 9591  
2nd Monday, 6.30 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Assembly & Other Languages

#### Felix Hofmann

*felix@melbpc.org.au*  
(03) 9523 5400 AH  
1st Thursday, 7.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Ballarat

#### Ken Smith

(053) 32 7851 BH & AH  
1st Thursday, 7.30 pm  
(except school holidays)  
Ballarat East Secondary College

### Basic

#### Andrew Callaway

(03) 9619 4067 BH  
2nd Tuesday, 7.30 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Bendigo

#### Russell Collins

(054) 39 3708  
2nd Wednesday, 7.30 pm  
Girton Grammar School  
(Computer Room)  
105 Mackenzie Street  
Bendigo (Vine Street entrance)

### C/C++ Programming

#### Ken Holmes

(03) 9583 1504 BH & AH  
4th Monday, 7.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Clarion

#### Alan King

(03) 9882 8044 BH  
4th Wednesday, 6.30 pm  
Suite 9, 96 Camberwell Road  
East Hawthorn  
(Through wire gate and up the stairs on the south-east side of Roseberry St)

### Communications

#### Philip Lew

(03) 9822 2998 BH  
(Brief calls please)  
2nd Wednesday, 7.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Daytime

#### Felix van Lier

*Felixvl@melppc.org.au*  
(03) 9525 3962 BH & AH  
Asst convener: Brian Taylor  
2nd Thursday, 10.00 am  
Melb PC SIG Room

### East

#### Keith Lane

(03) 9762 6644 Anytime  
(03) 9761 1414 Fax  
*keithln@melbpc.org.au*  
Asst convener: Stewart Tanner  
(03) 9879 9776  
2nd Monday, 7.30 pm  
Lutheran Church Hall  
67 Rooks Road, Mitcham.

### Freeware and Shareware

#### Doug Westcott

(03) 9898 2765 AH  
*dougw@melbpc.org.au*  
Co-convener: Tony James  
3rd Tuesday, 7.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Graphics

#### Yahya Abdal-Aziz

(03) 9562 1023 AH  
(brief calls please)  
Asst convener: Kevin Gorie  
3rd Monday, 7.45 pm  
We meet in the bungalow at the rear of Nadish Naoroji's home, 8 Park Crescent North Caulfield

### Hardware

#### Felix Hofmann

*felix@melbpc.org.au*  
(03) 9523 5400 AH  
3rd Wednesday, 7.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Music

#### Yahya Abdal-Aziz

(03) 9562 1023 AH  
(brief calls please)  
Asst convener: Eric Best  
(03) 9646 6898 AH  
2nd Thursday, 7.30 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### New Users, Central

#### Graham Paul

(03) 9417 5315 AH  
3rd Monday, 7.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### New Users, East

#### Doug Brooke

(03) 9822 3458 BH & AH  
2nd Tuesday, 7.30 pm  
St Mark's Anglican Church,  
Cnr Canterbury & Burke Rds  
Camberwell

### OS/2

#### Andrew Keil

4th Wednesday, 6.30 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Quicken

#### Viv Martin

*martinv@melbpc.org.au*  
(03) 9551 4838 AH  
4th Thursday, 7.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Retired & Interested Persons

#### Ken Thomas

(03) 9803 6229 BH & AH  
4th Friday, 10.00 am  
(Note, not last Friday)  
Lutheran Church  
25 Cypress Avenue  
Glen Waverley

### Turbo Pascal

#### Ross Hall

(054) 28 6470 AH  
(03) 9699 4000 BH  
2nd Tuesday, 7.30 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### UNIX

Vacant, acting convener:

#### Yahya Abdal-Aziz

(03) 9562 1023 AH  
(brief calls please)  
3rd Thursday, 7.30 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Waffle

#### Vince Thornton

018 171 344 or  
**Andrew Callaway**  
(03) 9619 4067 BH  
"Eat-ins" held after main monthly meeting.

### Warragul

#### Mark Withers

*withers@dcscorp.org.au*  
*Mark.Withers@garfield.apana.org.au*  
(056) 25 4165 (7-9 pm)  
1st Friday, 7.30 pm  
Function Room  
Warragul Leisure Centre  
21 Burke Street, Warragul

### Windows

#### Mikhail Bortolotto

(03) 9888 2360 AH  
1st Monday, 7.00 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

### Word Processing/DTP

#### Loraine Briggs

(03) 9563 6396 AH  
014 693 882  
*lbriggs@melbpc.org.au*  
4th Friday, 7.30 pm  
Melb PC SIG Room

The Blind Citizens Support Group meets at 7.45 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, at 1st Floor, 87 High Street, Prahran. For further details, please contact John Machin, on (03) 9569 1440 (BH).

Conveners: If you would like your e-mail address printed in this list, please send an e-mail message to: *editor@melbpc.org.au*



# SIG meeting reports

## CLUB ACTIVITIES

coordinated by Keith Beresford



### Daytime

**Felix van Lier**

At our September meeting Lynn Pollock gave us an overview of those programs required to link us to the Internet. Lynn started by explaining the origins of the Internet and how it gradually progressed to its current sophisticated stage.

With our first Slip Kit we had around ten different files to find our way around. We are now basically looking at Trumpet Winsock, Netscape or Internet Explorer, e-mail such as Eudora or Pegasus. Free Agent enables us to read newsgroups offline. As Lynn pointed out the major programs each require two hours of instruction to obtain a sound understanding.

Netscape provides a wealth of information through the use of the various search engines that link us to the world wide web. At this point we are only limited by the time we have available to "surf the net."

Thank you very much Lynn for the time you spent with us.

Our October meeting commenced with the usual Q&A session. We then looked at an audio-visual program called *How and Why—Introduction to Windows 95*. The CD-ROM presented an entertaining and instructive, in-depth explanation and

narrative. This is highly recommended for those who want a first introduction to Windows 95. This demonstration was followed by a further explanation—given by Brian Taylor, our assistant convener. Brian showed us the basic requirements needed to get up and go, and proved very valuable.

It is quite clear that more and more of our members are beginning to use Windows 95 and no doubt this will be necessary, as in the future the majority of programs will be 32-bit versions. We will also next year be looking at OS/2. The only thing now remains for us to upgrade our hardware to adequately run these programs—subject to financial considerations.

Father Christmas has accepted our invitation to visit the December Daytime SIG, and will bring some gifts. We look forward to his visit and to our members participating at this special occasion.

### East

**Keith Lane**

The October meeting was another record-breaking night for us. Over 70 people were there and at least ten had not attended our meetings before. I found the atmosphere warm and friendly and many approached me saying how much

they had enjoyed the meeting.

At the break I noticed that Keith Beresford was besieged by a long line of members wanting advice that they missed getting in the question and answer session. Keith has been a member of Melb PC for four years and a committee member for two. He brings to the meetings and workshop his long experience in the industry.

Keith said he was asked several times how to run both DOS and Win 95, so he will provide a comprehensive answer to everyone at the November meeting.

One of the short talks was by John Cullen who described how he advanced from Multiplan to Excel. About the time Microsoft was starting to give Lotus some real competition with Excel, John started to use Excel to help run his business.

No need for expensive custom programs or a bookkeeping program designed in DOS; John uses Excel. He doesn't have to export his bookkeeping information from his Accounting Software—Excel is his Accounting Software.

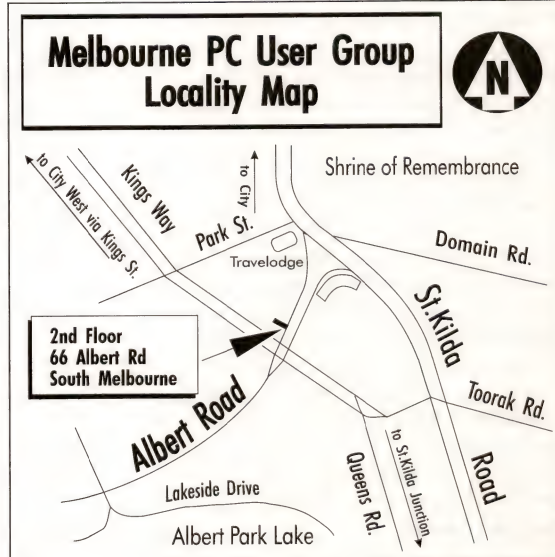
He doesn't need any special software to watch the people who owe him money. Excel lists his debtors and how long the money has been outstanding. His creditors must bless Excel as he can easily see how much he owes and when the amounts

### Meetings Calendar

(Check with SIG Convener when a SIG meeting falls on a Public or School Holiday)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
First	Windows ‡		<b>Main Monthly Meeting</b> Waffle	Assembly & Other Languages ‡ Ballarat	Warragul
Second	East Access (Database) ‡	Committee ‡ Basic/Turbo Pascal ‡ New Users, East	Bendigo Communications ‡	Music ‡ Daytime ‡	
Third	Graphics New Users, Central ‡	Freeware and Shareware ‡	Hardware ‡	UNIX ‡	
Fourth	C/C++ Programming ‡		Clarion OS/2 ‡	Quicken ‡	Word Processing/DTP ‡ Retired and Interested Persons

‡ These meetings are at Melb PC — see the map for location details.



Many SIGs meet at Melb PC's premises, on the second floor at 66 Albert Road, South Melbourne.



were due. What about his financial reports—no sweat they are in Excel too. He has much more flexibility than any accounting program can give him. He can prepare his reports any way he likes to give him the most information about his business.

Then there is the most important aspect of making a business work successfully—the plan and the possibility of keeping to it. John has all his information in Excel. So modelling the future requires no extra keyboarding or importation of figures. It was really interesting to see Excel used so comprehensively and if any member wants to get in touch with John to see how Excel works for him, just give me a ring on 9762 6644 or better still come to our meeting on the second Monday of the month.

John also gave out diskettes on the Elliott Wave Theory in share investment and he intends to give a talk on that subject at the December meeting.

Stewart Bedford gave us some insights into the construction of Web pages. The short time available was just enough for everyone to want to know more and so Stewart will spend most of the November meeting showing how he constructs Web pages for his business.

The hint I remember most was to look at what other people have done. Not to imitate but to see how they have achieved the effect that you want to use. Another insight that I owe to Stewart is the fact that your Web page is a passive instrument, entirely dependent on the cleverness of the browser to give it life.

When you consider that it has taken Stewart a year to become familiar with the construction of Web pages we really appreciate his helping us to reduce our learning curve. And writing this at the beginning of November I am looking forward to hearing more details from Stewart in ten days time.

Bob McLean demonstrated how to use PowerPoint to produce personalised presentations. Bob showed us how to turn off various slides so that the audience at each presentation could see material relevant to them. He showed us the ways slides could merge into each other. We also participated in building a PowerPoint demonstration. Bob says to ring him at work on 9481 9218 or at home on 9874 2629 if you want to know anything about PowerPoint. Better yet, say come to the next meeting on 9 December and meet Bob yourself.

Share investing with computers is the theme for the 9 December meeting. John Cullen will talk on Elliott Wave Theory.. Howard Briant is going to tell us about the Share Portfolio Management system that he designed for himself.

#### **For the Future**

Brian Hollis is going to help us all with our short talks. Inspired by two speakers at the Pharmacy College one Wednesday

night—one captivating and one **not**, he is going to give us some hints. Brian has many years of teaching experience behind and will give us some ideas on presenting short talks at the February meeting. Put that in your diary—10 February.

#### **Exhibitions**

Basin Rotary held a *Cyber Art Exhibition* in Bayswater. Unfortunately there were few people and many exhibitors let them down. East manned a stand there to little avail and it made me realise how lucky we are to have the regular swap meets to meet with members and non-members.

The Box Hill Town Hall swap meet by contrast was a great success. Even though there were two other swap meets on at the same time there was a constant stream of people.

#### **Running East**

Ian Paterson, Aldo Pitri, Stewart Bedford and Keith Beresford have all offered to help me with the various jobs needed to keep up the momentum for the group to continue to grow. Ian is currently putting together a plan that is based on the Purposes of Melbourne PC, and which we expect to be a blueprint approved by you all, for us to continue to build the sort of SIG you want.

#### **Freeware and shareware**

*Doug Westcott*

In October the core of regular members braved the mess surrounding the SIG and Training Room renovations to see presentations of Corporate Logo Screen Saver, Living Letters ABC and Money Smith 95 from our club's Freeware and Shareware Library. We also had a quick look at two extra Windows 3.x programs, BarClock and Better Alt-Tab, which I thought may be of interest to the SIG.

November's meeting had a Christmas theme, with presentations of Bert's Christmas, Xmas Lights and several Windows 3.x "Santa" screen savers. QuikMenu 4 Windows, a program manager replacement for Windows 3.x, was also presented by Randal Ellis and Tony James.

Over the last 12 months there have been more than 40 different programs demonstrated at our SIG and we plan to look at a similar number in 1997. Our aim is to provide you with a brief overview of these programs' features and some idea as to diverse range of subjects covered by our club's Freeware and Shareware Library. Disks of the programs presented are available on the night, so if a program looks interesting you can purchase a copy and explore it in more detail at home.

We don't meet in December, but will be back on 21 January with demonstrations of three more Freeware or Shareware programs. Please check the BBS about a week prior to the meeting for details.

#### **Graphics**

*Yahya Abdal-Aziz*

This SIG is the place to see, show and discuss any aspect of graphics—as distinct from text—used in PC computing. We warmly invite any Melb PC member to drop in and share a pleasant evening. Tea and coffee are available, for which we request a small contribution, whether in kind or in cash. As always, we thank our host Nadish for his hospitality and the use of his equipment.

In October, a capacity crowd turned up for the animation theme session. Our Question and Answer session ran for well over an hour, with most emphasis in two areas. The first was how (and why) to set up your PC successfully to run different operating systems, such as Windows 95, OS/2 and Linux, on demand. The second was font design and manipulation, with such tools as Fontography (if you're rich), Font Monster (if you just want to scare existing fonts into shape) and Fractured Fonts (if you're cracked?).

At the end of this session, we were all ready for refreshments. General hubbub proved that members can network with the best of them. In fact, they were so rowdy I almost had to wield the lash to get them back in their stalls for the second half of the show.

#### **Animation**

Kevin Gorie showed us two packages designed for three-dimensional animation: Simply 3D, and 3D FX. Kevin commented that there seems to be no standard interface in animation packages, particularly when handling three dimensions. He then showed, using Simply 3D, just how easy it can be to lose things in 3D space! This package lets you select and insert predefined objects, but the place they appear at seems to be entirely at the program's whim. However, once he had found the objects he wanted, Kevin demonstrated how simple it is to do key-frame animation.

Myles Strous showed how Fractal Design Painter supports 2D animation, suitable for cartooning, and in particular the "onion skin" feature available from version 3 onwards. The current version is 4.0. As a reference, he recommends "Fractal Design Painter 3.1 Unleashed", and indeed the whole "Unleashed" series generally, published by SAMS. According to Myles, these books effectively introduce you to the necessary functions and the particular strong features of a package.

Myles also showed us his favourite 3D package, True Space 2. This operates largely in wireframe view, for speed. He drew a spaceship in just a few minutes. All were impressed at the ease with which True Space 2 lets you directly draw a path in three dimensions for an object to



move along. The interface seems well designed to use mouse movements in 2D, including dragging with either button or both, to let you draw, scale, zoom, and rotate objects in 3D space with immediate visual feedback.

The demonstration that comes with the True Space 2 package shows that the object can be made to turn to always point forward along the animation path. When Myles tried to show us just how to do this, it became clear that you need to acquire a fair degree of skill before you can successfully lock your spaceship on course. Maybe we could send him on a short refresher course at space pilot school? Myles had also brought along a reference book on this, the "Caligari True Space 2 Bible", published by IDG.

Both Myles and I had brought along our copies of Deluxe Paint Animate, an older DOS program that provides all the considerable painting power of Deluxe Paint II Enhanced, plus 2D animation at just one fixed resolution: 320 pixels wide x 200 pixels high x 256 colours. This needs MCGA, VGA or better graphics to run.

I had also brought Expert Animator, which has similar restrictions on resolution, a much more basic—and therefore simpler—painting tool, but adds Sound Blaster music or sound. It also makes animation along a path easy, whereas Deluxe Paint Animate is more effective at frame-by-frame animation. As there was not time to demonstrate either package, I circulated the manuals to give members an idea of the capabilities of each.

Myles also mentioned some other animation products he has tried: Future Splash Animator, available on the Internet at [www.futurewave.com](http://www.futurewave.com), for 2D cartoon animation—Windows 95 only. Also Animation Master (around \$US700) and its cut-down version, Hash 3D Animation (around \$US200) for character animation. He quoted others as saying that Animation Master was worth the price for its compositing functions alone, said to be the best available.

There was much more than polite applause for both Kevin and Myles at the end of the evening, for some truly interesting demonstrations. Thanks to both for bringing along their own equipment, their energy and their knowledge to share with us.

#### Themes for the rest of 1996 are:

November: ray-tracing

December: virtual reality, the party.

## Hardware

**Bill Kessler**

The meeting started with an announcement that Keith Layden (from the New User Group East sig) needs someone to explain the inside of a computer to his sig members.

An explanation of the use and

operation of a POST card came next.

Samples of communication cables going into the streets of Melbourne were passed around to those interested.

The MPC Wizard III CD-ROM was recommended as being a good for testing MPC systems.

Members purchasing new computers with Win 95 were warned that some people had run into trouble when the new computer had been installed with different serial numbers from those on the supplied disks.

Also that when you use DOS utilities with Win 95, long file names will be truncated.

The following questions were asked by members

- Can I get help to connect my new modem to my computer?
- How do I turn on error correction on my modem?
- Can someone help me with an IRQ conflict causing my computer to lock up?
- What can be done with a hard disk which is OK, but does not work as a slave correctly.
- What is the correct way to go about buying a tape backup system?
- What is the difference between different types of UART chips?
- What should I do about hearing the whine of the motor when I play audio CDs?
- Why do I get double lines on my monochrome monitor running on my 486 under Windows 2?
- What sort of colour printer should I buy to get the best picture quality?

Here are two tips from a recent meeting:

- If you buy computer hardware at a swap meet, get as much documentation as you can about your purchases.
- Remember to ask for any relevant drivers (or more increasingly Win 95 drivers).

Tony James—a computer consultant from PC Solutions and a regular at the Hardware SIG—brought in a range of fans and heat sinks used on various types of motherboards. Then he explained some difficulties that can occur with their installation.

#### Reminder

At each meeting, there are several computers brought in for inspection. If you want to bring in yours, remember to bring as much of the computer with you as possible, including boot disks, connector cables, etc. This is more important than ever as the sig room is being modified, and the cables or disks you need, may be impossible to find.

## Music

**Yahya Abdal-Aziz**

Members at the September meeting agreed to change the sig's name from "Computer Music sig" to "Music sig." This new name better reflects our aims. Rather than placing technological limits on what we do, we want to focus on the creative side of music. As a Melb PC sig, we'll do that, mostly by exploring the ways in which using PCs can enhance everyone's experience of music.

You can still expect to see people presenting the latest and greatest in music hardware and software. As well, members and guests will perform some new music at every meeting. We'll do anything reasonable to help you get more enjoyment out of your music-making.

Some examples

- Hands-on workshops with interesting gear
- Tutorials on techniques—notation, composition, arrangement, etc.
- Demonstrations by professional musicians
- Group composition (or just jammin')

At the October meeting we installed, and played with, several programs. Two were music collections: the Pianist, famous classical piano pieces in MIDI file form, and the Yamaha XG Sampler Eric got with his latest toy (his new sound card). I'm sure we'll hear more about this new toy before long. We had to play quite a few requests before we could leave the Pianist.

The remaining programs were all of the sequencer or arranger type: Power Tracks, Band in a Box, and Visual Arranger. Visual Arranger has a cute cartoon-like interface—I personally find this style much easier to use than the tiny icons with incomprehensible pictures in more "standard" Windows interfaces.

While experimenting with one of the sequencers, Eric changed the default note display, from a piano keyboard, to a guitar fingerboard. In this display, the note a string is turned to is shown beside each string. It was set to the common tuning (E1 A D G b e).

For a laugh, I asked Eric to tune the guitar to an open D chord. He promptly returned all the strings, simply by double-clicking on each one and typing in the new note name. Before I asked him to, none of us had known this could be done. It was a great demonstration of the power of a well-designed visual interface to help you do useful things.

We also had a rather theoretical discussion about tuning. This included

- Equal temperament
- Bach and the Chinese
- Pythagoras and just intonation



and various actual and proposed microtonal tuning systems, including

- Bosanquet's 43-note division of the octave, last century
- My cycle of twenty equally-tempered thirds, producing a 20-note division of the perfect fifth.

For November, Eric has promised to give us a demo of the full capabilities of one of the sequencer/arranger programs.

It's up to you what you make of this SIG—just like every other SIG. Come prepared for some fun—it'll be a blast!

## Retired and Interested Persons

### Bill Cooney

It is with great sadness that I report that Jaybee is no longer with us. You will recall that last month Ken mentioned that John Button's health had deteriorated to the point where he was unable to continue with his previous energy. A couple of weeks later, John succumbed to a total system failure and died on 15 October, at the age of 64. He was a founding member of this SIG and contributed much to its continuing life with his cheerful friendliness and readiness to help anyone. We will miss you dreadfully John but we know you are now part of the ultimate "shareware" scene.

There were the usual large numbers present (140), almost "standing room only." The New Users subgroup is so popular that new accommodation must be found for them. Graham, one of our new members, recounted his introduction to computing in 1985. His brand new XT posed the question, "Do you wish to format drive C:?" Despite a frantic "N" he watched in horror as all his programs began to spiral into the "Black Hole!" Graham says he now gets goose bumps at the mere mention of the word *Format*.

Our SIG always packs the room with people discussing their problems and interests. Most people prefer to talk instead of stopping for Mark Trickett's coffee, tea and gourmet biscuits.

The guest speaker was John Clark from MCZ Computer Services in Vermont Sth. He was a most interesting speaker, as he spoke frankly and with a good knowledge about the hardware scene—what was good to buy, what was a market rort—things that vitally interested our members. He told of the guy who rang his company and complained that the "coffee holder" on his computer had broken! Patient enquiry by the tech got the reply, "Well I push a button on the computer and this tray comes out for the coffee cup"! Didn't have any CD-ROMS yet, I guess. Thank you, John, for a most informative and entertaining chat. You gained many friends that day.

Since we will not have a December meeting, I will take this opportunity to wish you all very Happy Christmas. I look forward to another year of good fellowship with you all in 1997.

## Turbo Pascal/Basic

### Ross Hall

Our October meeting was well attended, although it was more Basic than TP in content.

Among the subjects discussed were:

- Andrew Callaway's genetic algorithm program in Visual Basic which shows the evolution of an insect where the user can select the preferred mutation or it can be randomly selected.
- Different methods of transferring the genetic information from generation to generation using strings
- Bar code readers and communicating with Comm Ports from Windows
- Printing from a Windows environment using Visual Basic or Turbo Pascal for Windows.
- VB code for rendering circles to give a 3D effect
- Adjusting a circle's aspect ratio using the GDI
- Assorted memory and colour problems in VB

We ended the evening discussing the best introductory programming language—to use Visual Basic with a DOS or Windows approach or to jump straight into an object oriented Pascal or Delphi.

The general feeling seems to be that an object-oriented approach is understood more rapidly when one is not burdened with the habits of a procedural language, despite the initially steep learning curve.

The next meeting will be Tuesday 10 December. Hope to see you there.

## UNIX

### Yabya Abdal-Aziz

This is where you find out about and discuss any aspect of the UNIX operating system. We're not exclusive—close relatives like Linux probably get more time than ol' Grandma UNIX. Whether you're a guru, or just want to hear useful things explained in English you'll be very welcome.

We recently changed the meeting night from the first Tuesday, because it clashed with LUV, the Linux Users of Victoria.

At the October meeting, we welcomed both new and old members, then asked each one: Why are you here? The reasons are as individual as the people.

For example, Greg sees the SIG as an adjunct to the Computer Maintenance course he's doing. He plans to install both Linux—a free UNIX work-alike—and OS/2 Warp 4.0 on his machine shortly.

Arthur first came along to learn how to more effectively use his Internet shell account. He hopes to find an Internet Service Provider soon who still supports a shell account, as it's more efficient at transferring files and messages than a GUI.

Why use UNIX? Unlike DOS, it has a flat memory model, which simplifies memory management; it provides more flexible

file naming and directory access than DOS does; it is reliable, and it protects users from themselves.

How do you use UNIX? We reviewed some basic UNIX commands—ls, cat, cp, mv, mkdir, chdir, rmdir, history, link, chmod and man. We also touched lightly on command redirection and aliases, and explored some aspects of file naming and file permissions. Other topics that we will cover in coming months: devices, filesystems, user accounting, system administration. Oh yes—and I promised to show how to make a "tee" joint in your command pipeline.

Where do you get UNIX? You can buy a commercial licence, such as SCO UNIX, or use freeware like Linux, which also has a number of advantages. The six-CD Linux Developer's Kit costs around \$40 or better at LaserBaud, and includes several different "distributions," or ways of installing Linux onto your PC (or DEC Alpha). Currently recommended for hassle-free installation? the Debian distribution. The kit also has XFree, the freeware X-Windows system, for a robust and convenient graphical user interface. You will also find the complete contents of several well-known UNIX or Linux Internet site archives, as well as demonstrations of a half-dozen commercial application programs for Linux.

How do you instal UNIX? Come along next month, when we will show how to instal Linux on the SIG machine—which the Committee promise will be the new, improved version.

Confused? Mystified? Just bring along your confusion, and your sense of humour. We guarantee to increase one of them!

## WP/DTP

### Loraine Briggs

Well, with all the fumbles and bumbles re what night of the month we were to meet, I think we'll just forget about October and repeat the exercise for our November meeting. What a shambles!

OK, off with the old and on with the new; or maybe we should be saying "onward and upward." Either way, we now know **for sure** that we meet on the fourth Friday of each month, 7.30 pm in the SIG room at the Club's premises in Albert Road, South Melbourne.

As I said, we'll carry over the October topic to November, so we'll be looking at forward planning for next year. I'll start the ball rolling by saying that I would like to see some networking between our SIG, the Comms and the Graphics SIGs, and my particular interest in that is web page design. Please have a think about your own specific areas of interest, expertise or need and put them forward to be placed on the 1997 agenda.

See you there!







# 1996 PC Update Readers' Choice Awards

YOUR FAVOURITES

Stan Johnstone

PC Update  
Readers'  
Choice  
Awards  
✓96  
Winner

**T**he PC Update Readers' Choice Awards were presented at the monthly meeting on 6 November 1996. Melb PC was very pleased to welcome as guests some of our interstate vendors, who had made a special trip to attend, in addition to our local friends and supporters.

As we have done in previous years, the Readers' Choice Awards were selected as a result of our readers voting by e-mail, fax, BBS and snail mail. It was your chance to choose the products that you like or desire, making no claims of technical superiority of one product over another—just a simple choice of those products you prefer to use.

We added a few additional categories this year to try and keep pace with changing interests, dropped a few others that lacked response last year, and generally tried to get an idea of how readers are using their equipment.

Thanks to everyone who contributed in one form or another. The feedback to vendors provided by User Groups is always welcomed, and possibly our only embarrassment is for those vendors who did not score as well as they may have hoped.

No doubt your own interest is to see how your interests compare with the Group as a whole. You will note that in some cases no awards were made for one reason or another. In some cases where insufficient support was shown, no Runner Up was announced.

## Generally

Over the last three years the results have changed dramatically. In previous years, quite often there was little to choose between two or even four products, but now, in almost every category it would seem that one product is the favourite, sometimes in the ratio of 10:1 to the runner up!

Equally noticeable is the disappearance of some companies either as an amalgamation or the dominance that one product has established in a particular field. The emergence of packaged suites also seems to have been a powerful and successful marketing exercise that has governed the choice of the individual products that make up the suite.

This has its good points, but equally creates a disturbing feeling for the possible smothering of new emerging products in a field which is dominated by an already successful product.

## Award Categories

### Word processor

Three years ago Word for Windows and WordPerfect were almost neck and neck. However today following a series of changing vendors, WordPerfect has slipped a long way behind. Now it is under the Corel banner and with the program's integration with Internet software we may still see a resurgence, but at the moment it is Word for Windows way out in front.

**Winner:** Microsoft Word for Windows

**Runner Up:** Corel WordPerfect

### Spreadsheet

There was no change in this category from last year's results—Quattro Pro has diminished even further, and Lotus 1-2-3 remains in second place although farther behind Excel, which is clearly dominating.

**Winner:** Microsoft Excel

**Runner Up:** Lotus 1-2-3

### Database

Last year saw dBASE pass Paradox in popularity for the first time, but now has slipped out of contention and even dBASE falls further behind the winner from last year—Access.

**Winner:** Microsoft Access

**Runner Up:** Borland dBASE

### Packaged suites

This section was added last year when these products started to make their impact on the market and, as you may have guessed, Microsoft cleaned up once again.

**Winner:** Microsoft Office

**Runner Up:** Microsoft Works



Stan Johnstone looks on as Carol Daniels hands Microsoft's 14 awards to Sharon Lloyd Holmes.

### Communications software (BBS)

In previous years it has been the Telix vs Telemate and Terminate. It must be the popularity of Windows 95 that has brought Hyperterminal to the limelight. My old favourite Telix is still the winner although the degree of interest in Hyperterminal means that it must be a lot better than my own experiences with MS Terminal.

**Winner:** deltaComm Telix

**Runner Up:** Microsoft Hyperterminal

### Offline reader (BBS)

Despite the belief that the day of BBSS may be numbered, Blue Wave has always been a Melb PC favourite. Again this year no other product even suggested a challenge.

**Winner:** Cutting Edge Computing  
Blue Wave



McAfee is still our reader's preferred antiviral product. McAfee's Horrie Walker accepted the award.



Last year we had only one Internet category—*Internet Application* to cover all aspects. With the rapid growth in the past year it was obvious that we had to recognise products in many areas.

Surely the most widely used of the Internet range of products are the web browsers which are becoming even more complex with the combining and integration of mail and news readers. Still well out in front, but the continuing pressure from Internet Explorer is keeping Netscape on its toes so much so that new versions of both seem to be coming out every week.

### Runner Up: Microsoft Internet Explorer

I have always liked the simplicity of use of Eudora and it copes quite well with my average of 100+ messages a day, but the surprise for me came with the **Runner Up** whose capabilities in this field had never attracted me. Probably it is the all-in-one packages that are emerging that grabbing the imagination of other users.

**Winner:** Qualcomm Eudora

Forte's Agent has had a remarkable gain in popularity since it first appeared on the BBS in Free Agent form, but again the popularity of the multi-use packages is proving to be attractive in this area also.

**Runner Up:** Netscape Communications  
Netscape Navigator

Trumpet Winsock has been a world-wide success since its original version, however Windows 95 Dial Up Networking is catching up quickly for the 32-bit users. Recent interest is now being shown in Microsoft's Internet Explorer version for the Windows 3.x users, as it incorporates its own internal dialler.

**Runner Up:** Microsoft Windows 95  
Dial Up Networking

In the past WinFax Pro has won this section without any competitor warranting a second place. Probably as a result of the packaging of software with

An area more for the professional rather than the casual user, but CorelDRAW! retains its popularity and Paint Shop Pro has returned to the winner lists.

**Runner Up:** JASC Inc. Paint Shop Pro

Probably the Internet, with many pictures available to be viewed has contributed, to the rapid growth of LView, and again Paint Shop Pro again remains behind.

**Runner Up:** JASC Inc. Paint Shop Pro

Once the domain of programmers only, when everyone had the editor they preferred to the exclusion of all others. There were some who even enjoyed using EDLIN! All gone! Now the decision seems to depend entirely on whether you use Windows or DOS.

### Runner Up: Microsoft Edit

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## Antiviral software

Particularly with seemingly uncontrolled incoming traffic from the Internet, no-one should ever consider not using a reliable virus checker. Although the voting results are unchanged from last year, it comes as quite a surprise as the majority of computers I see all use Cybec's Vet, but despite this McAfee wins again—probably only because it has been obtained without registration.

**Winner:** McAfee VirusScan

**Runner Up:** Cybec Vet

## File compression

How did we ever do without it? Does anyone still use 360 KB diskettes? Now with files becoming even larger in size it would seem that again the preference seems to revolve around the preferred operating system, and again the results are unchanged from last year.

**Winner:** PKWARE Inc. PKZIP

**Runner Up:** Nico Mak Computing Winzip

## Backup software

Colorado continue to lead the way. With disk drives getting larger, files and their structures are becoming so complex that every backup procedure becomes rather daunting. Something we all must do, but how many of us do it often enough.

**Winner:** Hewlett-Packard Colorado

## Personal finance

Quicken has won this section every year with MS Money only just getting their nose in twice before. Quicken is the product chosen by members who look after their money most closely.

**Winner:** Reckon Software Quicken

**Runner Up:** Microsoft Money

## File and disk managers

Why can't we have an XTreeGold version for Windows 95? XTree has been one of my favourite programs since the earlier version, and has always been the clear winner each year of these awards. Norton Commander is in there, but still a long way behind.

**Winner:** Symantec XTreeGold

**Runner Up:** Symantec Norton Commander



Dan Darling, one of the evening's presenters, accepts Maestro's award.

## Network software

Not a great deal of interest in this field with Windows taking the honours from Novell.

**Winner:** Microsoft Windows for Workgroups

**Runner Up:** Novell Inc. Novell Netware

## Programming language

Over the past three years Visual Basic has steadily improved from third place to winner this year, followed by the ever popular C++

**Winner:** Microsoft Visual Basic

**Runner Up:** Borland C++

## Software technical support

Again this year, no winners. We had more questions than answers—"why are they all up in Sydney"? or None! "My husband"—and there were quite a few other comments that we couldn't print!

## Personal printer

Many respondents quoted the model type and other details, but as we said, in this category we limited the answer to the name of the manufacturer.

**Winner:** Hewlett-Packard

**Runner Up:** Epson

## Colour printer

Last year both printer categories were won by HP with Canon as the Runner Up—this year both categories winners are HP with Epson as the Runner Up. What is it that makes people change brands? Is it advertising or what?

**Winner:** Hewlett-Packard

**Runner Up:** Epson

## Modems

Maestro and Netcomm have shared this category between them in the previous years, and they have done it again although their leadership may be challenged as new manufacturers enter the field.

**Winner:** Netcomm

**Runner Up:** Maestro

## Sound card

As in previous years, the results were a foregone conclusion with Sound Blaster being so far ahead that there could be no second place.

**Winner:** Creative Pacific Pty Ltd  
Sound Blaster

## CD-ROM drive

Now considered an essential part of any computer, I believe the two winners are actually manufactured in the same factory with only minor differences. Our only explanation is that the marketing of Sound Cards with CD-ROMs must be the reason for the preference shown here.

**Winner:** Creative Pacific Pty. Ltd.

**Runner Up:** Panasonic

## Best computer bookshop

These two winners are the same as the past two years, and with so little between them it must just depend which part of the city you work in.

**Winner:** McGills Authorised  
Newsagency

**Runner Up:** Technical Book and  
Magazine Co.

## Best commercial magazine

Since we excluded PC Update from this category the two winners are again just like last year.

**Winner:** Australian Personal Computer

**Runner Up:** PC User

## Best technical support

The responses here were less critical than for the software support, but unfortunately no one company stood out sufficiently to justify making an award.

## Favourite operating system

It was inevitable which company was going to win this category—but which product? Windows 95 with 52% of the vote exceeded all other platforms combined.

**Winner:** Microsoft Windows 95

## Favourite Web site

Each year we add a topic just to see how it goes. It is obvious that everyone has their favourite—it's just that I finished up being the only winner by collecting a great list of web sites to visit.

## Favourite PC Update advertiser

Again a bit of fun. We like all our advertisers and appreciate the support they give us, but we thought we would just like to give you the opportunity to tell us which ones catch your eye.

**Winner:** TECS (The Electronic &  
Computer Store)

## Best Computer repairer/upgrader

New equipment and features are arriving all the time, and you cannot just go out and keep buying new machines. So we all need someone to help with any upgrades, and more importantly, when something dies.

**Winner:** Computer Rebuilds



Morris Tobias is Best Computer Repairer/Upgrader.



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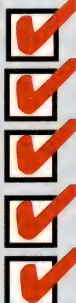
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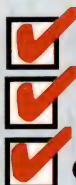
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## SOFTWARE REVIEW

Bernadette Houghton

### worth a try if you need to brush up your typing skills

**H**ow are your typing skills? Perhaps you're a two-finger *bunt and pecker*? Maybe a *finger-blurring expert* with just a couple of weak areas? Whatever your typing expertise, Fastype can spur you on to greater levels of skill.

A redevelopment of the long-time DOS favourite, PC Fastype, Fastype aims to provide structured typing training and practice. It helps you master the basics of touch typing, hone any weaknesses and improve speed and accuracy. Running under a Windows environment, Fastype can be used by multiple typists with varying skill levels.

#### How it works

Fastype offers Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced skill levels, with several kinds of exercises available at each level. At the Beginner level, for example, you can practice your home keys, letter patterns, capitals, numbers, shifted characters, or choose custom characters. You can practice on your keyboard's number keypad or use "KAPS FOR KIDS" where all lower case letters display as capitals. The Intermediate and Advanced exercises use longer and more complex drills, or you can practice on your own text files. Some of the exercises have deliberate misspellings to encourage you to concentrate on your typing rather than on the meaning of the text.

Fastype presents a split screen layout, with a keyboard representation on the bottom and a text window at the top (Figure 1). At the Beginner levels, you follow the keyboard prompts to proceed through an exercise. At the Intermediate and Advanced levels, the keyboard display is optional and you type the text displayed in the text window. As you type, a pointer moves from one character to another. If you're not quick enough, Fastype prompts you by beeping and depressing the appropriate key on the

keyboard display. You can set the speed of the prompts to a level you find either comfortable or challenging, depending upon your objectives. Exercises can be timed in 15 second increments up to one hour.

If you hit the wrong key, Fastype beeps and highlights the character in the text window. You can backspace to correct errors if you wish, or continue regardless—a split second decision which will affect your final speed or accuracy ratings. Sometimes your typing may become "out of sync" with the pointer that travels under the displayed letters—you could be typing a character ahead or behind of the pointer, for example. Fastype detects this condition automatically and puts the pointer back on track.

At the end of each exercise, Fastype presents various speed and accuracy statistics, including your best and average Words Per Minute in the current session (Figure 2). A Show History option displays statistics of each exercise you've undertaken.

With the Open Typing feature you can enter any freeform text just as you would in your normal work environment, using the mouse or cursor keys to navigate

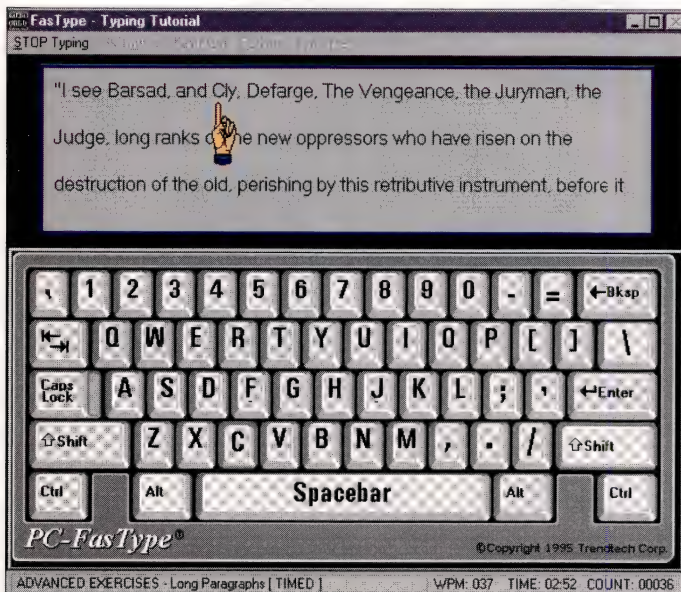


Figure 1. Main Fastype screen.

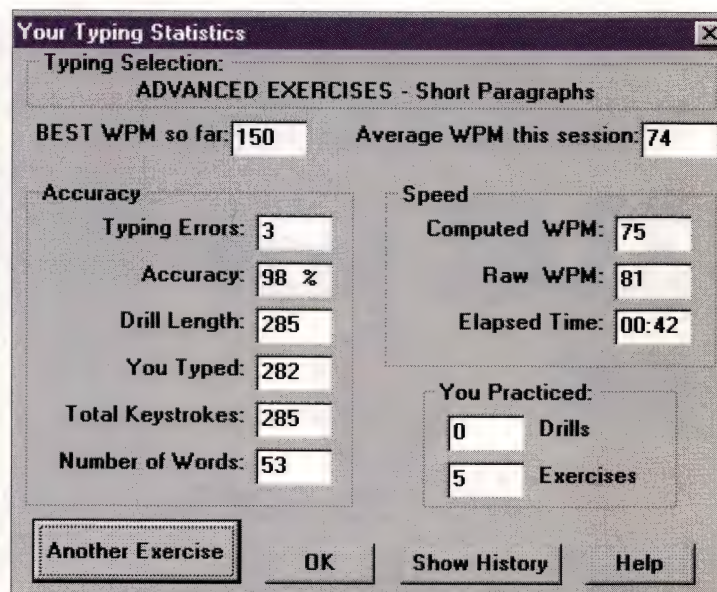


Figure 2. Typing Statistics screen.





# Computers are stupid!

...COMPUTERISTS, TOO...

Peter Smith



around the screen. FasType doesn't catch any misspellings, but you do get penalised if you use the Backspace key. This feature gives you a more realistic assessment of your actual typing speed in a real-life situation.

## Assessment

FasType is a useful typing tutor which will challenge you to greater and greater heights of skill and accuracy. It tracks progress over time, although it would be more meaningful if it tracked session averages rather than individual exercises. The keyboard display can be either the 101-Enhanced or PC-AT keyboard, and font style and colour can be changed. It comes with a manual which covers the basic principles of touch typing as well as comfort issues and ergonomics.

The only problem I struck was when typing more than one character ahead of or behind the cursor; FasType can't get on top of this situation. Apart from this, FasType works well, although it does have one very annoying little bugbear—a useless dialog box telling me on every startup that I am "Running Windows 95—OK".

Verdict—a solid performer and definitely worth a try if you need to brush up your typing skills. □

**T**he other day I was tickled to read this item on the front page of our Melbourne newspaper, *The Age*.

*A Newport man, given \$2.30 in cash by a teller to clear \$2.29 he was owed after an interest miscalculation, has received a bank demand for one cent.*

It was, no doubt, a computer-generated demand. (My reaction would probably be to go to the bank with a five cent piece, and demand change!) [Ed: For our international readers, five cents is now our smallest coin.]

It reminded me of a time, quite a few years ago now, when I was working on a project to introduce the now-common barcode scanning systems into grocery stores. One of our aims was to provide consumer benefits.

One of these was comparison pricing, where we wanted the cost per litre or kilogram on the shelf label—it's not always an easy mental calculation.

We had one major problem—the weight or volume was only recorded as

part of the description, and then not always consistently. Variations such as "1.25L", "1250 ml", "1250ML" and so on were common. So, our team wrote some fancy programs to scan the description, and extract all sorts of weights, measures and volumes.

This worked well. We did a final volume test and proudly showed the user department what we'd achieved. Our pride was a little dented when we discovered our "10 litre plastic buckets," retailing back then for \$1.26, were priced at "12.6 cents per litre" and a \$2.46 tube of Superglue (3 grams) weighed in at \$820 per kg. Back to the drawing board!

Do you have any personal, real-life stories of the "stupidity of computers" (or more properly the failures of their programmers)? I'd love to hear from you. (No urban myths or copies of stories from the net, though, please.) Drop me a line or e-mail (details on page 3), and we'll let the rest of our members enjoy a chuckle or two. □

## The unfriendly user

Grahame Menzies

### Info Box

#### FasType

#### Minimum system requirements

- IBM-compatible running Windows 3.1 (fully compatible with Windows 95 and Windows NT)
- 2 MB free hard disk space.

#### Availability and cost

Available at major software stockists, including Myer and Harvey Norman.

Distributed by Manacomm

Ph (03) 9569 6377

Fax (03) 9569 9641

For nearest reseller phone 0055 12685.

RRP \$49.95

**I** have been a member of the Group for nearly two years, an Internet service subscriber for about as long, and feel I should submit something non-technical for publication.

I am the Unfriendly User. I really enjoy computers and surfing the Net. However, the one thing I am not, is a techno-freak.

I have no desire to program in C++ (or in fact ever understand it). To me BASIC will never be basic and the thought of writing anything but a simple batch file leaves me completely cold.

When I fire up my computer, I expect it to operate to my satisfaction with a minimum of fuss. To those clever people out there who devised self-configuring communications software, I offer my hearty congratulations.

The last thing I ever want (or need to

do) is waste hours trying to configure a program that keeps arguing with me and refuses to operate or talk to the modem.

In fact, my idea of the perfect computer is one that comes preloaded and pre-configured for everything. Bauds and bps I do not wish to know about and, for me, bytes can continue to remain a mystery.

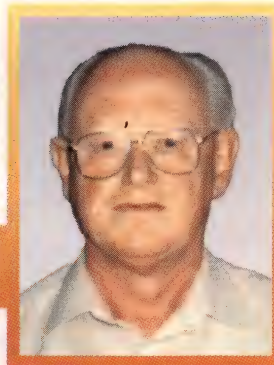
I have been involved with computers, as a user, since 1958 and during my working life have encountered four or five generations of computer systems, from punch-cards to the latest online. I have always regarded computers as a means to an end and not the be-all and end-all of life as we know it.

I do not begrudge those with the technical knowledge. I certainly don't envy them, as there is a lot more to life than staring endlessly at a computer screen. □



# Hardlock security devices

## HARDWARE REVIEW



Bob Burt

### a sophisticated copy protection system, featuring data-encryption

**T**he Hardlock System, produced by Glenco Engineering Inc, is designed to create hardware and software copy protection for software applications and data. The package reviewed here is the *Hardlock Master Kit* and this particular version is based on a Hardlock "dongle" that is attached to the printer port of the customer's computer. Other configurations avoid using a parallel port key by providing an internal ISA/MCA board, *Hardlock on a Board* for desktop computers or a PCMCIA card, *Hardlock PCMCIA* for laptops. Irrespective of the option which is selected, each Hardlock key contains an *algorithmic response custom chip*, the heart of the system. The dongle itself is available with or without memory, a factor that I shall explain later.

#### Info Box

##### Hardlock System

##### Compatibility

Hardlock is compatible with

- Dos
- Windows (including Windows 95, NT and Win32S)
- OS/2
- UNIX
- LANS.

##### Price structure

- Hardlock Master Kit \$140
- NET Hardlock Master Kit (10-User) \$270
- Additional Hardlocks \$57 ea
- Additional Hardlocks with Memory \$62 ea

##### Local distributor

Software Protection Systems Pty Ltd  
2/3 Nelson Street  
South Caulfield VIC 3162  
Ph: (03) 9532 4044  
Fax: (03) 9532 4055  
e-mail: [sofprosy@ozemail.com.au](mailto:sofprosy@ozemail.com.au)

##### Web site

<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~sofprosy>

Naturally, such devices are of primary interest to software developers, as they are designed to provide insurance by way of protection against software piracy.

The Hardlock Master Kit includes a large volume of documentation, much of it rather technical, which I shall try to avoid using as far as possible. However, to be fair to the product and its operational principles, I must include some jargon.

#### The custom chip

The acronym for this chip is ASIC. This term means an *Application Specific Integrated Circuit*. ASICs are used to manufacture custom-designable integrated circuits and are made with modular cells that implement standard circuits, such as gates and registers, which can then be used to create much more complex circuits. Experts can design their own ASIC circuits and have them manufactured by another company, yet the cell contents cannot be analysed. An ASIC can thus be used with advantage in a copy protection system. The ASIC used by the Hardlock system is custom-designed by Glenco and offers users the capacity to program the Hardlock with their own unique algorithms.

The last sentence might seem to imply that you need to be a reasonably competent programmer to adequately protect your software. Fortunately, this is not necessary, as you will see later, although practised programmers can create protection for their products that would take the most experienced hacker literally years to crack.

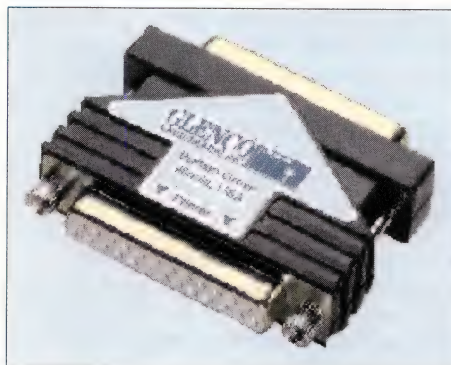


Figure 1. A Hardlock dongle.

#### How Hardlock works

The system uses three basic components

- The Hardlock device (the "key")
- The Crypto-Programmer board (the "key cutter")
- The software interface (to lock the application to the Hardlock)

However, the Master Kit itself contains

- The selected Hardlock device, Hardlock with Memory
- Three master disks with software routines and examples
- The Crypto-Programmer board (CP board)
- A 5 m programmer extender cable
- A 250 mm field extender cable
- A user's guide, Software Security Data book and other documentation
- An HL-Crypt Hardlock

Using the software and the Crypto-Programmer, you program the Hardlock. Automatic implementation requires the inclusion of the HL-Crypt Hardlock, whereas manual implementation, for more experienced users, uses the high-level *Application Programming Interface* (API), which is fully described in the user's manual.

#### Automatic implementation

The first step is to install the software, which you do from the DOS prompt. You have the option of installing the entire software, the quick implementation software for DOS and Windows, or just the API software. For auto use you must install one of the first two options, of course.



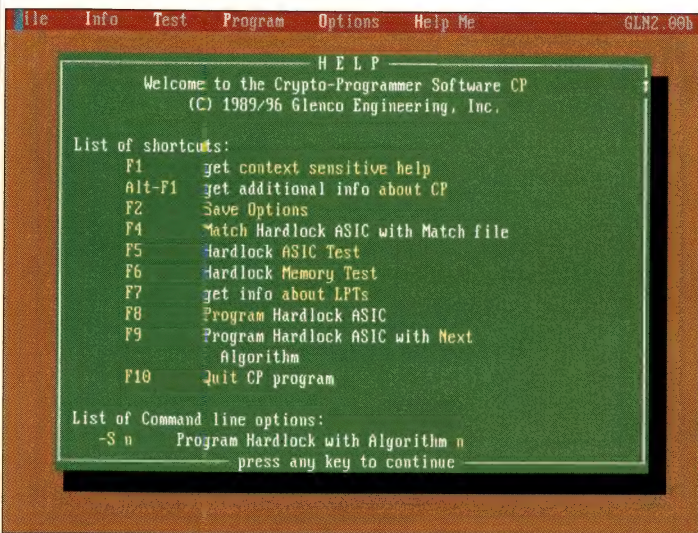


Figure 2. The software interface.

The full installation requires about 15 MB of hard disk space and includes some demonstration programs and a series of batch files. The latter are particularly useful for your initial work, but if you wish to use them unmodified you must keep to the directory/subdirectory structure set up by the install utility.

You start the newly-installed CP program and check that the required address for installation of the CP board is not occupied by another add-on card. Unfortunately, if a card is already assigned to the required address, you must either remove the card or assign another address to it—the CP board address cannot be changed.

After establishing that the required address is clear, you switch off your computer and mount the CP card in a suitable 8- or 16-bit slot. You also attach your Hardlock to the CP board.

### Programming the hardlock

After switching on the computer again, the first task is to program your Hardlock. This is much easier than it sounds. You simply move to the software subdirectory and, at the DOS prompt, type

```
CP -B
```

A pop-up window entitled *Programming ASIC* appears and the following sequence of steps occurs automatically

- Setting of Hardlock address
- Programming ASIC
- ASIC Test
- Programming Memory Option with TEMPLATE.128
- Verifying Memory Option
- ASIC Test
- Appending INFO to CP.REP

Finally, the message *ASIC & Memory Burn successful* appears. All you need to do is to make a note of the Hardlock address for future action.

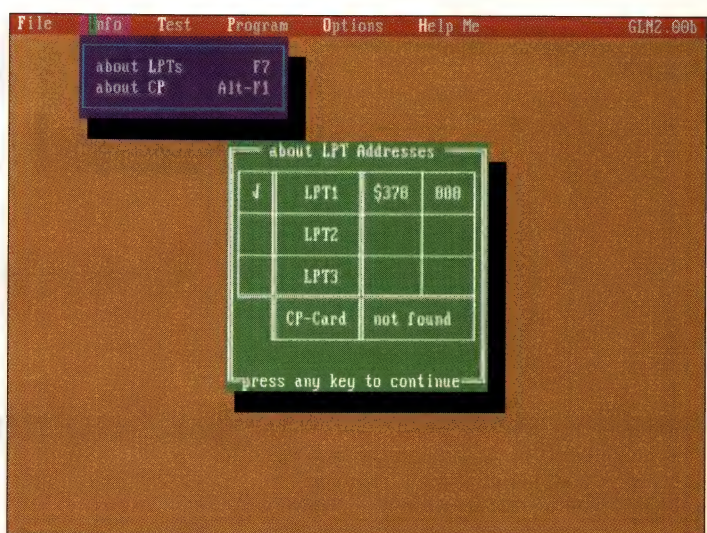


Figure 3. Address available for the CP board.

### Protecting your programs

You are now ready to apply the Hardlock protection to the selected program. First, you attach both the newly programmed Hardlock and the HL-Crypt Hardlock to the printer port (it must be a parallel interface). Then you create a sub-directory for your program files and copy the program you wish to protect into it. Before you start processing, one batch file has to be edited, to change the Hardlock address to that which appeared earlier in the pop-up window.

You now select one of four possible DOS commands, depending on whether or not you are processing (a) a real mode DOS program or (b) a protected mode DOS or Windows program and whether or not, in each case, you require data or overlay files to be encrypted. For example, for a real mode DOS program that does not require further files to be encrypted, the command is of the form

```
RPROTECT MYPROG.EXE
```

One further command is subsequently required to actually encrypt the data or overlay files, when this is needed.

If you encrypt the original program a number of times, the end product is different each time, although it uses the same algorithm. The overall size of the program increases after such processing (called patching), but the amount could differ on each occasion. During patching, the application is transformed into its own language, copy-protection elements added and the program is recompiled and relinked. Hard encryption is also performed on the binary image using the Hardlock's module address and algorithm.

You can change the Hardlock encryption algorithm, though, if you wish. In fact, you have a choice of 43680. You simply request an algorithm number between 0 and 43679. If you also use the "Next" function, this number

is incremented after each programming, so that you can provide each customer with a Hardlock that has a unique encryption.

Through a utility called a *Security Compiler and Protection Linker* you have considerable control over the various protection elements that comprise the HL-Crypt protection system. You can change the number of code modules to append, select or deselect specific anti-debug measures to be taken and perform many other patching operations.

You can attach more than one Hardlock to the same printer port to protect more than one program—that is, the Hardlocks can be daisy-chained. In such a case, you would provide a Hardlock Address Offset which is different for each of the additional Hardlocks. For just one Hardlock, you would leave the offset at its default of "0".

There is, of course, no way that the encrypting software can be used to change the program back to its pristine form, so you must ensure that you retain a copy for your own purposes. However, the encryption of the program's data files works rather differently, using what is termed *bidirectional encryption*. This means that if you encrypt the program's data files twice, you recover the original data files.

At this stage you can run the encrypted version of the program with the Hardlock in place. The program will perform normally. Then remove the Hardlock from the printer port and try to run the program again. An error message window pops up, but the program does not run. If you remove the dongle after successfully starting up the protected program, you hear some warning bells after a short while and the program hangs, requiring a reboot or replacement of the Hardlock to resume successfully.



## Programming the Hardlock with Memory

This Hardlock has an additional non-volatile memory of 128 bytes—96 bytes of ROM and 32 bytes of RAM. You write to the ROM using the CP board and HL-Crypt software. You can, for example, store an expiration date for demo software in the ROM (full details provided in the manual). Several predefined *Protection Templates* are provided which make use of this memory, using parameters such as serial numbers and coupon counters.

## Manual implementation

This is intended for programmers who are preparing applications, using a standard language such as C, Pascal or Visual Basic. Example files with typical high-level calls to the Hardlock API (not to be confused with the Windows API) are included for all the major languages. The high-level functions for controlling and querying the Hardlock are included in the manual and many tips and suggestions for better protection are described.

## Discussion

It took me quite a while to get going with this material, simply because there was so much documentation to read. In time I found, tucked into Chapter 2 of the User's Manual, a well-written *Quick Start* approach for installation and operation. What is clearly required is a brightly printed and well designed, concise *Getting Started* pamphlet or folder, with pointers to the *Quick Start* chapter and any other material particularly helpful for the beginner.

A further difficulty I experienced is in fact a tribute to the designers of the Hardlock system. I wished to include at least one screen dump of the Security Compiler in action for this review, but I was thwarted. The program requires both the Hardlock dongle and the HL-Crypt Hardlock to be in place before it will run. Then any attempt to obtain a screen dump with a snapshot program registers only the DOS level loading message, rather than recording the graphics on screen at the time.

## Conclusion

While I can certainly report that Hardlock is a sophisticated copy protection system featuring data-encryption, anti-debugging and reverse engineering modules, I can't say from first-hand knowledge how it compares with its competition, although other evaluations rate it highly. However, Glenco Engineering's major competitor, Aladdin Knowledge Systems Ltd announced on 30 May 1996 that it had acquired the software security related assets of Glenco Engineering Inc., and that it would continue to sell and support Hardlock, as well as its original product, HASP. □

# Prince Edward Island

## GREETINGS ON THE WEB

Barbara Maple



you nominate  
the date you  
want the  
card sent

Figure 1. Requesting your greeting card.

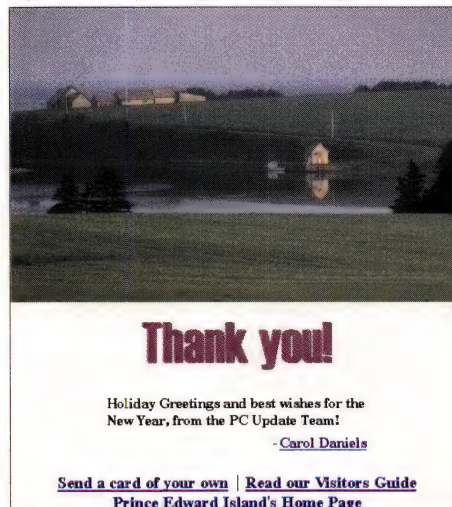


Figure 2. One of many cards available.

I found this site when I was looking for information about Nova Scotia. Although this article is about the Greeting Card Centre <http://www.gov.pe.ca/card/index.html> at the Prince Edward Island web site, the centre is just a small part of a large Prince Edward Island site <http://www.gov.pe.ca/vg/start.html>.

If you're thinking about a trip to Prince Edward Island or if you need information about this fascinating part of Canada for a school project, this site should be in your bookmark file.

You can go to the greeting card centre directly or jump there from a link on the main page. Once you are there you:

Select the type of card you want to send

- **Holiday**, including Christmas, New Year, etc. There are heaps to select from, some are specific to Canada and the USA, but Japanese holidays and Chinese New Year are there too. No ANZAC Day or Australia Day, though.
- **Special occasion**: Anniversary, Birth/Adoption, Birthday, Congratulations, Engagement, Get Well, Graduation, Thank You, Thinking of You, Wedding

## Holiday greetings from Prince Edward Island

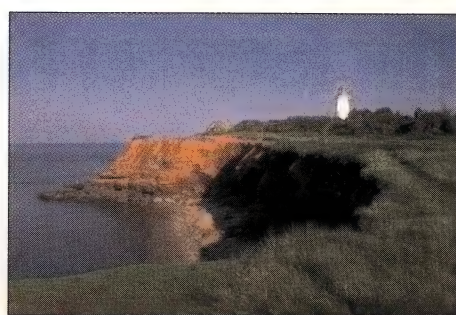
Here's one of Barbara Maple's finds from the web. It's just the thing for the holiday season. It's also something to show your sceptical, neo-luddite, friends when they ask you to show them just one useful thing you can do with your computer.

And it's fun sending electronic greeting cards from some faraway spot, without leaving your computer desk.

The Prince Edward Island greeting card centre isn't the only card site on the net. There are lots of them, but this one has some of the best "cards" thanks to the natural beauty of the area. If you're wondering, yes it is the Prince Edward Island of *Anne of Green Gables* fame.

Carol Daniels





Figures 3, 4 and 5. Picture "e-mailcards".

- **Postcard:** select a theme and image
  - The sea, scenic vistas, people, the beach, Anne of Green Gables, outdoor activities, buildings and sites, on the farm
  - Enter your details, including
  - Your e-mail address
  - Your name
  - The e-mail address of the person you want the card sent to
  - Your message
  - The date you want the card sent
- I have visited several cards sites, but this is the first I have seen where you nominate the date you want the card sent. Keep in mind that the site's in Canada. If you want a card to arrive on a particular day in Australia, you'll need have it sent on the day before you want

- it to arrive.
- When you're finished, you can preview the card.
- If everything is correct, you click "send". If you want to change the image or your message, just backtrack through the pages until you come to the right step and make your changes.
- Once you've sent the card you'll be asked if you want to send another.
- It's easy to send
- The same image with
  - The same message on
  - The same day to
  - A different person.

You only have to enter the new recipient's e-mail address and name. If you want to change anything else, you have to go back to the very beginning. That's not so bad when the time is right and the bytes are flowing like water. But if it's a busy time of the day, you can spend a lot of time waiting.

When the card is sent, you'll get a confirming e-mail message. Recipients get an e-mail message with instructions for retrieving their electronic greeting card.

That's all there is to it. That and the fun you'll have when your friends ask you about your trip to Prince Edward Island. How you answer them is up to you.



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# The Internet Ferret's Fancies

## SURFING FAR AND WIDE

The Internet Ferret



This is an eclectic collection of favourite sites on the World Wide Web chosen by The Internet Ferret (TIF). They have been collected from random and elsewhere. This text is Copyright by the person aka The Internet Ferret. Unauthorised reproduction of the total document is prohibited. But TIF hopes you enjoy the sites.

[Ed: These sites were the subject of the "rapid surf" at the group's Internet seminar in October. Space precludes us from publishing all TIF's comments, but we've included all the URLs. Full details are also available on disk **Melb 2583** in the group's shareware library.]

### Astrophotography gallery

David Miller spends a lot of his life in outback Australia working for the Department of Meteorology. His photographs of the galaxies have brought him international recognition. See why at this special site.

<http://www.gist.net.au/assa/miller.html>

### Movie Reviews on the Edge

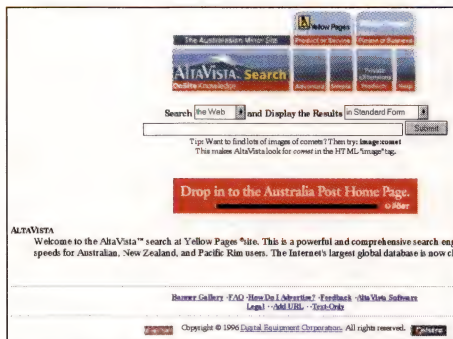


Mr Cranky Rates the Movies is a fun site. With his ratings from one to four bombs and a gelignite stick for a real clunker, Mr C. keeps the film moguls fuming. Be advised, see the film first before reading his reviews.

<http://internet-plaza.net/zone/mrcranky/>

### Search supreme

When you need information in a hurry, try the new Australian mirror site for the powerful AltaVista search engine. AltaVista@Yellow Pages Australia has indexed over 30 million pages found on 275,600 servers and 4 million articles from 14,000 Usenet news groups.



Powerful Boolean searching adds to the value of AltaVista.

<http://www.altavista.yellowpages.com.au/>

### Who's a guru?

Since the earliest days of computing, Howard Rheingold has been both a visionary and a guru. Visit his eye-opening site *Brainstorms* and catch up with his visionary outlook. His book *Tools for Thought*, now out of print, is available online for free. Go to his Pixel Theatre to see digitising of his amazing oil paintings. Read about the people and ideas of the next computer revolution.

<http://www.rbeingold.com/>

### All about Australia



What do you want to know about Australia? Whatever it is, this is the place to start fossicking. The Australia Index is a special interest network that links sources of Australian information and information about Australia.

<http://sin.csu.edu.au/australia/>

### World Wide Web FAQ

<http://www.telstra.com.au/docs/www-faq/>

### Utne Reader



Utne Online has been created by the publishers of *Utne Reader* in the USA. The magazine publishes the best of the alternative press and is considered to be the progressive or left alternative to the *Readers Digest*. Often has articles that challenge orthodox views. Find out more about the real America.

<http://www.utne.com/>

### Web Museum

<http://www.netspot.unisa.edu.au/wm/>

### Internet movie database

<http://ballet.cit.gu.edu.au/Movies>

### Peeping Tom home page

Want to see what is going on in the world right now? Then check out this mind-boggler. You'll find online cameras in most corners of the world from Africa to Zambia just waiting for a stickybeak like you.

<http://www.ts.umu.se/~spaceman/camera.html>

### John Labovitz's e-zine-list

<http://www.meer.net/~johnl/e-zine-list/>

### Lonely Planet online

Planning a holiday? Then be sure to visit this one. *Lonely Planet* guide books have been recognised for over 20 years as great sources of information for travellers worldwide. Check out the up-to-date info on this site. No hype and fact-packed.

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/au/>





## The Christian Science Monitor

<http://www.csmonitor.com/>

## 24 Hours in Cyberspace



When Rick Smolan the man responsible for the amazing series of coffee table books *A Day in the Life of...*, announced this project cybernauts wondered how it would end up. See the incredible results and wonder at the power of modern technology to produce the digital equivalent of a prehistoric cave painting. Proof that the world is a wonderful place. [http://korea.park.org/Pavilions/Cyber24/sitemap/sitemap\\_bome.html](http://korea.park.org/Pavilions/Cyber24/sitemap/sitemap_bome.html)

## The Internet Public Library

<http://ipl.sils.umich.edu/>

## Christ in the Desert

Isolated in the desert of New Mexico is a group of monks continuing their age-old monastic tradition. But they've gone digital. Their site is a joy to the eye, the ear and the heart. All the artwork is beautiful to behold, as most of it is



based on reproducing the appearance of stained glass windows. Listen to their brilliant Gregorian chants, be stilled by their contemplative writings. [http://www.christdesert.org/~cid/graphic\\_menu.html](http://www.christdesert.org/~cid/graphic_menu.html)

## Electronic postcards

<http://www.up.com/ANNAG/ecards.htm>

## The World Factbook

Whatever information you want to know about any country in the world, this is where you'll find it. Satisfy your own curiosity, amaze your kids and grandchildren. Everything you're ever likely to want to know about anywhere... and it's bang up-to-date and free—courtesy of the world's top spy agency, the CIA. <http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/95fact/>

## Stroud's CWSApps list

<http://cwsapps.tower.net.au/>

## My Virtual Reference Desk

<http://www.refdesk.com/>

## Project Gutenberg

<http://www.promo.net/pg/>

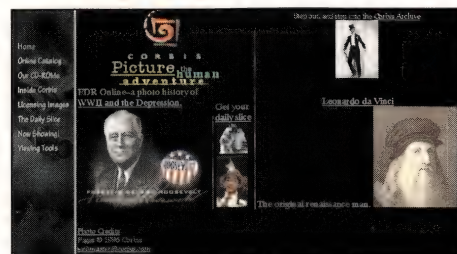
## Microscapes: The Australia collection

<http://micro.magnet.fsu.edu/micro/gallery/australia/australia.html> [Ed: note the odd spelling—*australa*—is correct.]

## The World-Wide Web Virtual Library

<http://www.w3.org/pub/DataSources/bySubject/Overview.html>

## Corbis home page



I have to be frank and admit that I'm not a great fan of Bill Gates. But when I look at the collection of digital images he has collected worldwide I grudgingly admire the work he has done here with his squillions of bucks. Pity that he charges a fee for every image you might want to download.

The Corbis archive contains a diverse range of subject matter, including biography and portraits, technology and engineering, natural and life sciences, history, the fine arts, landscape and geography, sports, political and social issues, people and cultures, and many more. Worth visiting just for the exhibition devoted to that giant of the 20th century Franklin D. Roosevelt.

<http://www.corbis.com/>

## China the Beautiful

<http://www.chinapage.com/>

## Reclaiming the Erotic

<http://www.rippleeffects.com/>

## Various Indonesia home pages

<http://cips2.gm.fb-koeln.de/~iw043/cyber.html>

## OzLit—Australian literature

<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~ozlit/title.html>

## TWIG—The Weekly Internet Guide

<http://twig.hypercon.com/>

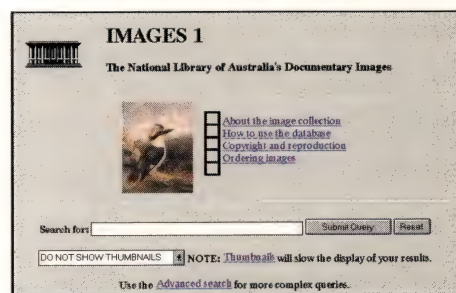
## Australian Governments' entry point

<http://www.nla.gov.au/oz/gov/>

## Blacklist of Internet advertisers

<http://math-www.uni-paderborn.de/~axel/BL/blacklist.html>

## National Library image collection



The National Library of Australia's *Documentary Images* is one of the hidden treasures on the Net, particularly for Australians. The *Images 1* database contains more than 13,000 images of works of art including watercolours, paintings, drawings, prints and photographs. It is just a sample of the images available in the National Library's Pictorial Collection. The images found in *Images 1* originated from two distinct projects: the APOLLO Videodisc Project and the Portraits Project.

<http://www2.nla.gov.au/imagecoll/>

## Ultimate Collection of news links

<http://pppp.net/links/news/>

## Adbusters' Culture Jammer's Headquarters

<http://www.adbusters.org/adbusters/main.html>

## Utne Link Free-for-All

<http://www.utne.com/netguide/visitorlinks.html>

## TRAVEL World Wide Web home page

<http://www.kmitl.ac.th/~kswaiyav/travel/index.html>



# Lightning never strikes?

## PROTECTING YOUR PC

Stan Johnstone



feel a lot

more confident

**H**ave you been affected by a lightning strike lately? Maybe it's like a virus or a hard disk crash, you've never had one, and you've been lucky—so far that is! After experiences like disk crashes, etc, we all go through the "if only" phase, and only then start to take the precautions that we wished we had done before.

From my work with the Melb PC Internet users, I know at least five members who have unfortunately suffered the results of a strike during the past 12 months. Extrapolating that figure over our total readership, the number becomes quite significant—possibly 40 to 50 a year just amongst the readers of this magazine.

A typical story is told by a member who went to his machine one morning only to be faced with a blank screen. Yes, he vaguely remembered hearing thunder during the night, but he had a surge protector on the powerboard that served his computer and modem, so he felt confident about that side of things. Or so he thought!

During the night he had been hit by a severe overvoltage due to a lightning strike to power lines some 500 metres away. A new motherboard, RAM, sound card and power supply were required. The case was only scorched, and the monitor just needed degaussing to have it up and running. Luck was on his side as the hard drives were not damaged, or he would have lost months of business records.

My own practice has always been to unplug my modem when not in use, and to unplug my equipment from the power if going away for a period. But after hearing stories, such as power points leaping out of walls, computers turned into a smoking mess, and all manner of damage, it would seem that too many of us are relying on a cheap powerboard device, which is of limited capacity.

A direct lightning strike may have a current up to 50 kA resulting in an earth potential of up to 500 kV, but even the field collapse associated with a strike nearby will induce voltage stresses into cables. As you may imagine, telephone cables are exposed just the same as power cables. Voltage spikes to your modem through this path would not enhance its performance. This problem need not be limited to lightning strikes as high voltage lines falling across normal power and phone lines will have much the same effect.

Novaris Technologies Pty Ltd produces a plug-in power surge filter that also provides fax and modem protection. The combined unit is in a neat metal case, measuring 160 x 100 x 60 mm, and complete with two standard power outlets with a total capacity of 10 A, as well as RJ12 input and output connectors for the phone line. A red LED shows that the unit is powered on, and a green LED indicates normal operation.

For the technically minded, the power protection is provided using metal oxide

varistors either side of a low pass filter capable of withstanding a surge rating of 6.5 kA on each line for a 8/20 microsecond pulse. The phone protection uses high speed gas filled arresters to provide a 10 kA protection for a 8/20 microsecond pulse also. (An 8/20 microsecond pulse is one which peaks within 8 microseconds and decays within within 20 microseconds.)

Naturally enough I was not able to order enough lightning to test the unit to this degree, however this Austel-approved unit does give a great feeling of confidence just seeing the two LEDs glowing brightly.

Next time there is lightning about I will feel a lot more confident, and I don't believe in the old adage that lightning never strikes twice.

The Novaris Technologies Power Surge Filter type P41102 was provided for review by Orion Pacific who can be contacted at PO Box 1021, Frankston 3199.

The RRP is \$190, however a continuing special offer of \$170 plus packaging and freight is available to our members through Orion Pacific.

### Info Box

#### Novaris Technologies Power Surge Filter

#### Minimum system requirements

- None

#### Availability and cost

Orion Pacific  
PO Box 1021  
Frankston VIC 3199

RRP \$190, special offer of \$170 to Melb PC members

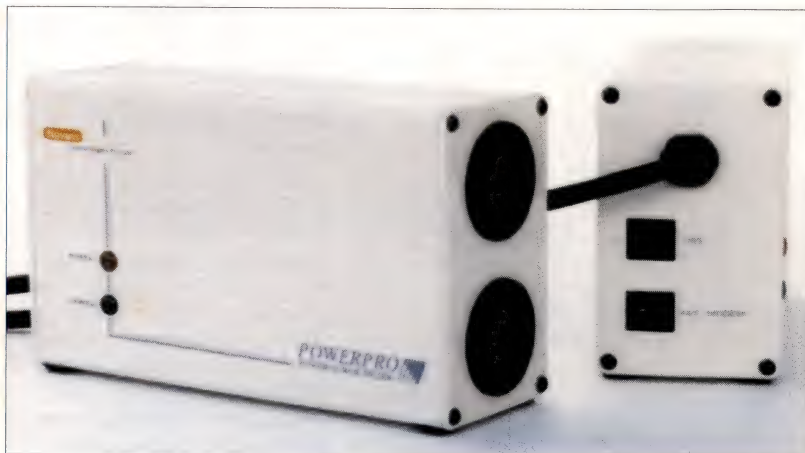


Figure 1. Novaris Technologies Power Surge Filters



# Janna Contact Personal

## CONTACT MANAGER REVIEW

Asb Nallawalla



I have been a light user of Symantec ACT! for Windows 2.0 for about two years. I have used Lotus Organizer 2.11 at work for a few months. Other competing products are Tracker (last reviewed November 1995) and Goldmine.

When you have several hundred names and addresses in a personal information manager (PIM), you don't want to contemplate changing to a new product. When Windows 95 was released some 15 months ago, Janna Contact 95 (JC95) was the only "true Windows 95" PIM to my knowledge. Janna being a

relatively obscure Canadian company, it was not noticed by many, but its name kept appearing in the press, so this company was here to stay.

Janna Contact Personal (JCP) was released in Australia as a localised version in late October. It is a stand-alone PIM unlike JC95, which was networkable (and will soon be replaced by Janna Contact Professional). JCP is a contact and document management package that is integrated with Microsoft Office, Schedule+ and Exchange. It is certified as Microsoft Windows 95 and Office compatible and implements OLE 2.0, TAPI and MAPI. The Professional version also supports ODBC. I was testing the US edition as the Australianised version was not ready (it is now).

### Managing contacts

You get a PIM primarily because you want to load it with names, addresses, phone numbers, and other details about people. Some PIMs are rigid; they cannot accommodate people who have three addresses or six telephone numbers. Some PIMs limit the number of categories (fields) you can define. JCP is not one of those; it is flexible and the key word is "unlimited." Essentially, that means your only limit will be physical resources, such as the capacity of your computer. Defining a custom field for one person does not repeat it for others needlessly,

for example, a spouse field.

Creating a new record (a person's details) is easy. You start with a pre-defined set of fields, such as first name, surname, postnominals, position, company name, address, and the like. You then enter additional fields to suit the person, such as their six phone numbers, two additional addresses, e-mail address, and any custom fields you need. Then you look at groups of records and allocate them to wider categories, such as sales prospects, people on your Christmas card list, and so on.

### Scheduling

A PIM not only stores your contacts' details but it can also manage your daily schedule, particularly around your contacts. You can see the calendar in many views: Day, Week, Month, or Year. Schedules are built by right-clicking on a time slot and dragging down the resultant frame to the finish time for the item. Durations can also be typed in. Various icons are available for types of appointments, which make them easier to tell apart. While some appointments are one-offs, some are recurring. If you are a procrastinator, you can have unfinished tasks roll forward until you clear them or mark them as finished. If the appointment is with a contact, you can quickly bring up the contact's details and print them as a reminder if necessary.

### Info Box

#### Janna Contact Personal

#### Minimum system requirements

- 80486 with 12 MB RAM
- Windows 95, NT 3.51 or later
- 8 MB hard disk space

#### Availability and cost

Solution 5 Pty Ltd  
1/263 Alfred St  
North Sydney NSW 2060  
Ph: (02) 9929 6644  
Fax: (02) 9929 6655  
WWW: <http://www.solvit.com.au>

#### Special Offer

RRP \$275; PC Update readers' price \$195

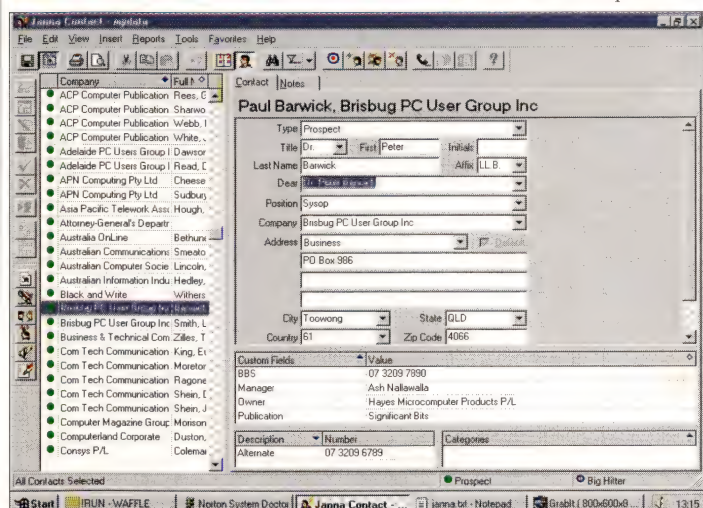


Figure 1. An ACT! database just after being imported (and edited).

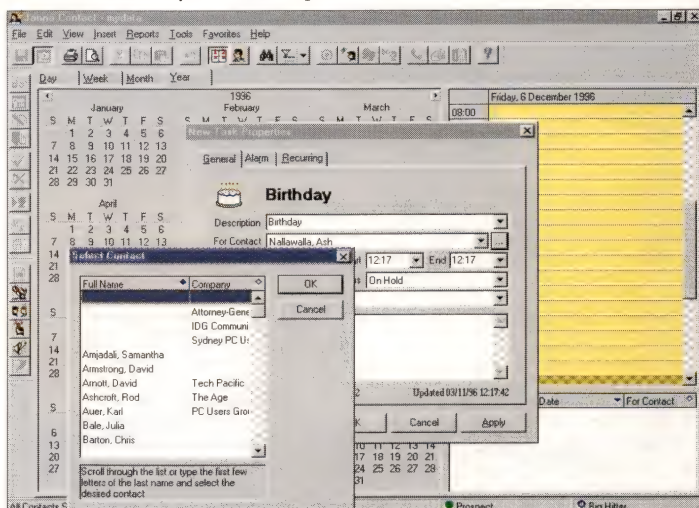


Figure 2. Setting a reminder in the schedule.



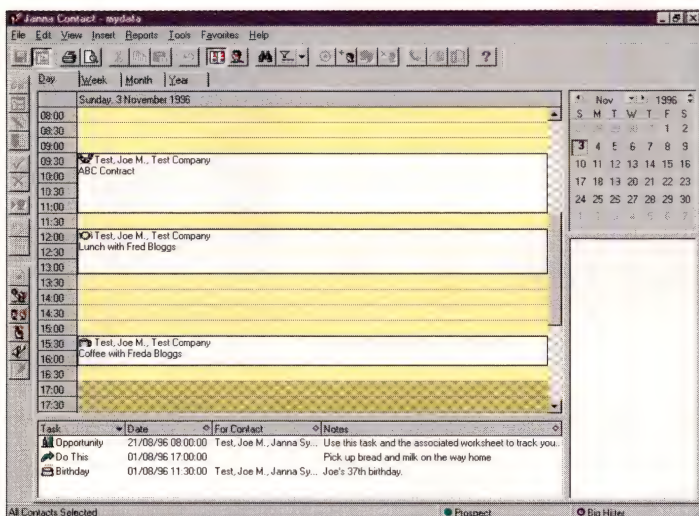


Figure 3. The schedule in day mode.

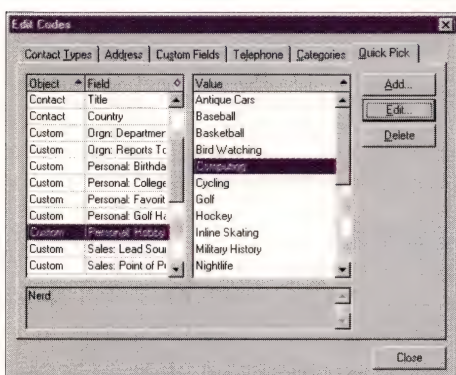


Figure 4. Editing "codes" to define a new category.

## Communications

As with many other PIMs, with JCP you can dial a phone number through your modem and an attached telephone. The modem dials and you are told to pick up the handset. The telephone socket at the back of your modem is a little-used feature that can save you a lot of fumbling or misdialled calls.

Electronic mail (e-mail) is also built in,

in the sense that you can store a contact's e-mail address in a record and send a document attached to the e-mail. Fax also works the same way. Unfortunately, if I didn't want to send a document, I could not find a way to send plain e-mail. In fact you need a document in the "Notes" window before the fax and e-mail buttons are enabled.

We do not yet have Caller-ID (Calling Number Display) but when we do, Janna will display the record of the caller before we answer the phone. That sounds like a great idea but it only works where a caller dials from the same number every time and this is rarely the case in a large company that has a PABX. (The actual number used to make an outgoing call is unrelated to the in-dial number and is one of several lines available.) You would need a modem capable of processing the Caller-ID signal, which is transmitted between the first and second rings.

You can store a www address in a contact's record; a right-click will launch your web browser and go to that address.

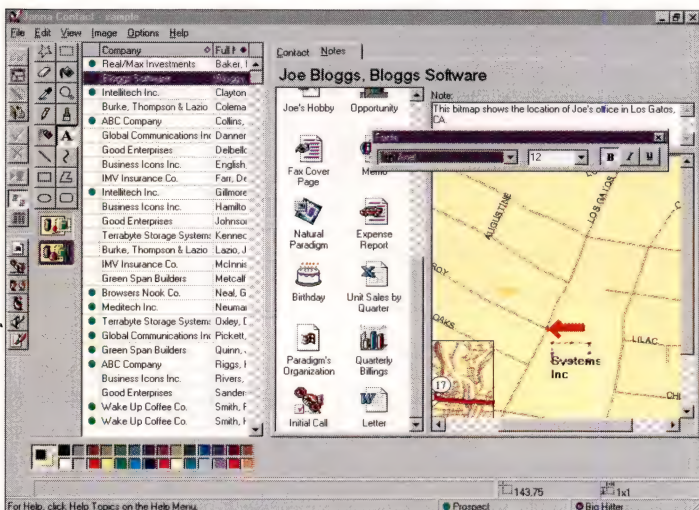


Figure 6. Editing an image brings up Paint controls.

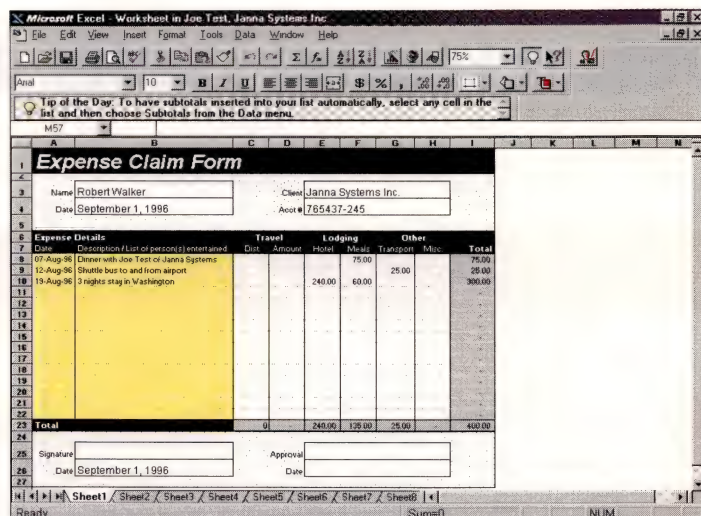


Figure 5. Excel integration, showing an expense claim form.

## Microsoft Office integration

When working with the people in your database you invariably write to them, create presentations pertinent to the business, entertain them, incur expenses that need to be claimed from the employer, and so on. If these documents are created with Microsoft Office, you will be pleased to find that JCP integrates well with it.

Under the Notes tab one can add various Windows 95 file formats as seen in Figure 7. If you double-click on a bitmap, for example, the Microsoft Paint tools appear in the window. This integration removes the need to have proprietary file formats or the need to learn new keystrokes. You don't need to open such a document in its native application; a right-click enables you to view the content in a small window. For a small Excel worksheet consisting of a dozen-or-so cells, this is very convenient.

The native JCP database is Access, so you can work with this data when you have interaction with other Access databases. I took a look and decided that it was not a job for the faint-hearted.

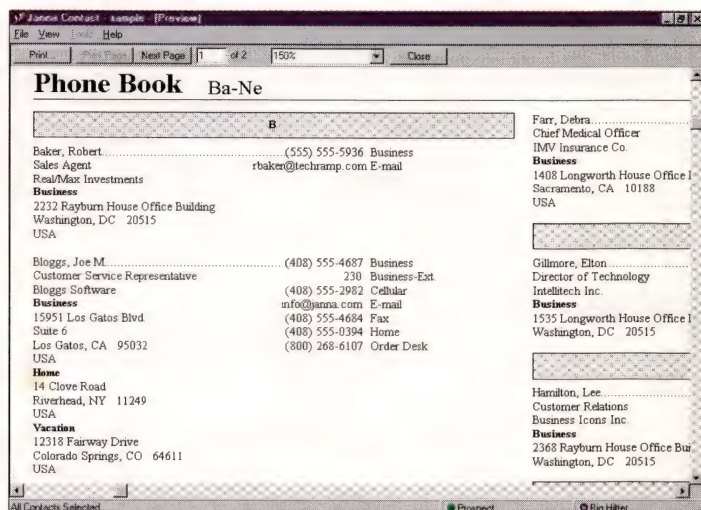


Figure 7. A telephone book report.



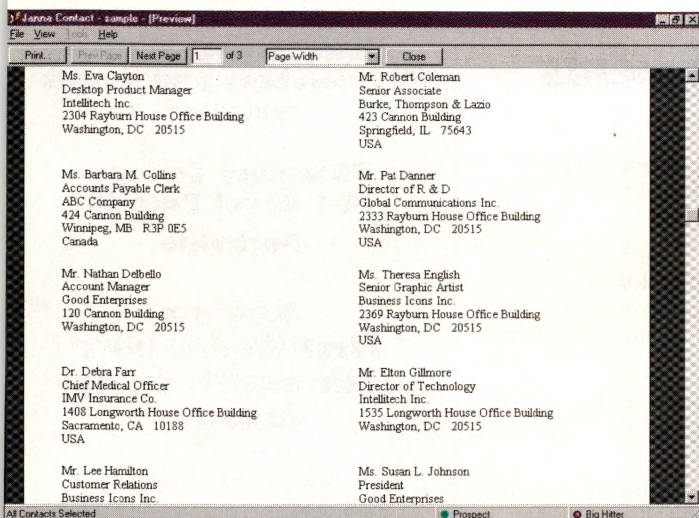


Figure 8. A mailing label report.

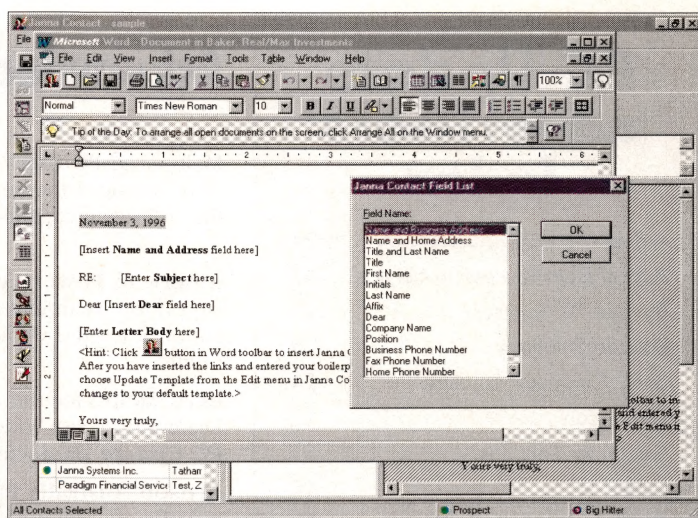


Figure 10. A form letter can be sent to a range of contacts.

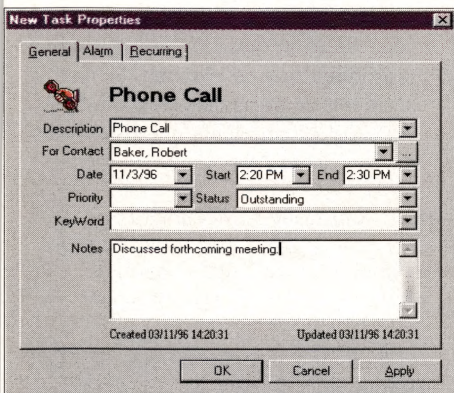


Figure 9. Using a modem to dial and taking notes.

## Reports

Reports are the printed documents you may need to generate, such as mailing labels, address and telephone directories, and the like. Report options are Detail, Phone Book, Mailing Labels, Codes, Task, and Schedule. You can select a single contact, a range, or all contacts when printing a report. JCP must have found out that I live in a metricated country, as the label sizes were all A4 sheets. (Note that I was reviewing the US version.) This may not be a bonus for American companies in this country such as my previous employer, where we used Letter-sized paper. Changing my country (in Windows 95) or the paper size in the printer properties did not display a list of US label sizes. But this requirement will be the exception in Australia.

## Conversion of ACT! database

JCP features import and export from and to other PIMs and database formats. There are over 20 import formats but just JCP and comma-delimited formats for export.

I used the Import option to bring in my ACT! 2.0 database. A wizard popped up and asked me for the full path to it. I clicked on the Browse button and lo, it had found the directory immediately. Nice

touch. I had the option to import activities, notes, history and popup menu entries. The contact information option was greyed out, but selected. After all, you would want to import that, wouldn't you?

I use additional "user" fields in ACT! in addition to the predefined ones. They are by default named "User 1", "User 2", and so on. When working with such fields within ACT! I could never remember whether User 1 was redefined as "Publication" or "Country" or something else. I was fully expecting to go through that exercise when importing into JCP, but I was pleasantly surprised. It showed them under their redefined names. Another good sign.

The import process took about 20 seconds for some set-up activity and then about two seconds per record (486/66 here). I was not pleased with some of the fields. For example, the Country Code value in ACT! was shown in JCP's Country field and my user field of "Country" was in a separate "Custom Fields" window. It would have been nicer to customise user fields by merging them into the main contact window.

Certain ACT! oddities were also imported, for example, the "owner" of an ACT! database and his employer's name are also exported to JCP against each record. This makes some sense in a networked database (I question the value of the employer's name) but may be a distraction for a personal version. Perhaps this could be a hidden field, which can be used where a personal database is later upgraded to the networked version.

## Usability

I don't "live" on the telephone, as some potential JCP users might, so I cannot comment on what it is like to use it for high-volume work. I need the addresses mainly for a mailing list and I add about 3-4 new records each month.

It was simple enough to press the

Insert key (as I did in ACT!) to add a new record. This appears to be undocumented and it seems to work only once, after you open an existing record, but you can't do it twice in a row. The suggested key is Shift+F4 or a button designed for this purpose.

I would prefer telephone numbers to be in the main window, not in a secondary one. I am also aware that few records can suffice with just one field each for phone and fax and it is easier to allow as many as needed. The disadvantage is that the numbers are shown in alphabetic (or reverse) order, not in some desired sequence, such as Phone, Fax, Mobile, Home Phone, etc.

Finding a record or a group of records is achieved in several ways. You can "highlight" records by assigning a code such as "Prospect" and assigning a green highlight dot to it. This shows all such records to appear with the dot beside it. You can also allocate a "target" icon to selected records, which shows it in the status bar when the record is displayed. You can also find a specific record by a simple "Find" dialog box or a more sophisticated version based on various selection criteria.

JCP stores documents with each record; for example you could have ten different Word documents, each called "Letter" in ten records. I could not determine where they are stored but it did not matter, for they did not affect one another. This is a great feature, and you no longer have to worry about name clashes, at least not in one directory.

The pick lists (drop-down list boxes) can be customised with your desired choices in advance or you can add them as you go. This is a time-saving and accuracy feature. Various Windows 95 features have been exploited, such as drag-and-drop, wizards, and right-click.

JCP is easy to use and is well worth your consideration.



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**SONY Australia Pty Ltd** for the supply of equipment for *PC Update* production.

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Stan Johnstone Meetings convener  
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